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SHEFFIELD LITERARY AND PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.

A CENTENARY RETROSPECT

1822-1922.

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ENG.
LOCAL
HIST.

Sheffield
Literary and Philosophical
Society.



SIR ARNOLD J. KNIGHT, M.D.
First President of the Society in 1823, and again in 1840

Sheffield Literary and Philosophical Society.

A CENTENARY RETROSPECT.

1822—1922.

BY

WILLIAM SMITH PORTER, M.D.

(*At the request of the Council of the Society.*)

SHEFFIELD :
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I.

THE BIRTH OF THE SOCIETY.



HE stranger within our gates was wont to remark upon the clannish instinct of Sheffield families who had been settled here for several generations, and their unwarranted assumption of the superiority of their native place. The same sentiment might no doubt have been observed in other localities; particularly where, from geographical circumstances, communication with the outside world had been restricted in the past. Down to the middle of the eighteenth century Sheffield was cut off to a great extent from the main routes of communication, and this fact retarded its progress in many directions, and led to the prevalence of intermarriage amongst its inhabitants which promoted the clannishness complained of.

Those who have had occasion to consult the Parish Registers for the earlier years of the eighteenth century must have been struck by the very few entries—the occupation being almost invariably stated—which suggest the existence of a more educated and cultured class. The names of a few clergymen, a sprinkling of attorneys and apothecaries, with now and then a merchant or a “Doctor of Physick,” appear amongst tradesmen, cutlers, grinders, smiths of various kinds, inn-keepers and “ale-keepers.” There would seem to have been very few who, in later times, would have been entitled to call themselves the upper middle classes. The appellation of “gentleman,” as indicating independent means and leisure, is rarely met with, and the Jessops of Broom Hall were almost

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the only Sheffield family, at that period, who reached the rank of esquire.

The later years of the eighteenth century witnessed the introduction of much new blood into the town, and an expansion of commercial activity. They also witnessed a growth of literary culture and a new development of social life. The professional element was increasing; there was a tendency amongst those of superior education to assemble together for other purposes than merely eating, drinking and dancing. Literary tastes drew them together, and they foregathered at tea parties where literature and art frequently formed the subjects of discussion.

The late Mr. R. E. Leader, in a paper read before the 'Hunter Society' in 1915, has left us an entertaining and critical review of "Literature and Archaeology in Sheffield a hundred years ago."

"The self-selected intellectuals of Sheffield," he tells us, "formed a small coterie, addicted to meeting to drink tea, and to flavour it with the small beer of literary dabbling. They read, and discussed with amazing profundity, the latest book. Commercial life was so leisurely that superior youths could find time to entertain their lady friends with selections from the newest thing by Scott, or Byron, or Tom Moore. This afforded a pleasant relaxation for fair philosophers who spent their morning hours in wrestling with the metaphysicians—with Sir William Hamilton, or Hume. One at least, the bluest of the blue, despised such feeble intermission, and we get a glimpse of her carrying Dugald Stewart's bulky quarto along with her card-case, and substituting his treatise on the Human Mind for the tittle-tattle of an afternoon call. Well, perhaps it was better than bridge, and probably the less Dugald Stewart was understood the more he was admired."

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Speaking of the style and diction of the local contributors to the pages of ‘The Northern Star and Yorkshire Magazine,’ a Sheffield monthly publication which welcomed their literary effusions, Mr. Leader observes: “To them, the only English worth writing was based on the ponderous rotundity of the Johnsonian tradition. This only was ‘classic.’ In their view ease was trifling, brightness was flippant. By the canons of their art, directness, incisiveness, conciseness were forbidden.” “What most forcibly strikes us is the utter absence of any sense of humour, both in the local verse and prose of this period.”

A contrast to the sedate literary tea parties was afforded by the annual gathering of the ‘**Shakespeare Club**,’ a masculine institution. The association of the latter with the theatre—at which a play was always ‘bespoken’ and attended by the members—would not have appealed to some of the tea party coterie. The meeting of the Club, too, took place around the festive board at the ‘Tontine Inn’ or the ‘Angel,’ and was the occasion for innumerable toasts. The origin of the Club, as disclosed at their first meeting in 1819, was an attack upon theatrical performances in a sermon by the Rev. Thomas Best, the recently appointed vicar of St. James’s. His sermon against the stage became an annual fixture. The vicar of Sheffield, the Rev. Thomas Sutton, was more tolerant, and the ‘wags’ of the day asserted that the Parish Church bells rang out, in merry cadence, “go-to-the-the-a-tre, go-to-the-the-a-tre,” to which those of St. James’s Church, over the way, sternly replied “don’t go, don’t go.”

The Club had grown to 85 members before it ceased its meetings in 1829, and the names of those who attended the dinners and participated in the toast list are evidence of its respectability. Mr. James Rimington, of Broomhead Hall,

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was the first Chairman, and he was followed in the chair in succeeding years by Dr. Younge, Mr. Peter Brownell, Mr. Benjamin Sayle, Mr. B. J. Wake, Mr. E. Rhodes, Mr. John Favell, Dr. G. C. Brown, and Mr. James Sorby.

Other officers and speakers at the dinners, besides theatrical managers and actors who attended occasionally, were Mr. Jackson, surgeon, Mr. Thomas Pearson, Mr. J. Sykes Bramhall, Mr. Michael Ellison, Mr. William Fisher, Mr. George Hounsfeld, Mr. William Smith of Barnes Hall, Mr. Henry Wheat, Mr. Luke Palfreyman, Mr. John Sorby, Mr. E. Barker, Mr. George Shore, &c. It was a point of honour to introduce into the speeches and toasts as many quotations from and references to the immortal poet as possible. Songs were interspersed, even “comic songs” occasionally, and the proceedings were certainly more convivial than the tea parties appear to have been.

Referring to reading facilities in the town, Hunter, in his ‘History of Hallamshire,’ published in 1819, writes: “Hitherto the town has been satisfied with the slowly accumulating stores of the old Subscription Library, which seemed to resist every attempt which was made for its improvement, and with the scanty supply which could be obtained by Book Associations.” Hunter was no doubt referring to the ‘Subscription Library’ founded in 1771, and the ‘Book Society’ founded in 1806.

‘**The Sheffield Subscription Library**’ was stimulated into reforming its ways by these censorious remarks, and by the opportune decease, in 1818, of its antiquated librarian, Mrs. Esther Caterer. Mr. T. Asline Ward, then President of the Library, in a short account of that institution, printed in 1825, deprecates Mr. Hunter’s censure. His admissions, however, are significant.

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"The books were in a very dirty and tattered condition in consequence of the librarian's attendance not being constant. The subscribers frequently supplied themselves with books, which were not properly and duly entered in a register, and were consequently lost in considerable numbers. More were taken out by some members than their legal share, and favourite books were reserved for favourite subscribers. The publications most eagerly sought after were concealed in cupboards, drawers, and even in the warming pan, for the more zealous, eager, and vigilant readers; while many unsuspicious members wondered that no new books could be had. Still there was a mine of intellectual treasure. True, the approach was bad, the staircase was winding, the room was dark and inconvenient, but still there was no small number of good books."*

Mr. Ward states that there were at this time upwards of four thousand volumes. The 'Sheffield Library,' under more progressive management, continued its functions with more or less success until the year 1907 (136 years), when it was amalgamated with the 'Literary and Philosophical Society.'

'**The Sheffield Book Society**,' founded in December 1806 by a coterie of six Sheffield gentlemen meeting at the King's Head Hotel, was limited to twenty members, and was intended to be of a social character. It met monthly, "on the Tuesday nearest the full moon," and each member presided in turn, fines being exacted for non-attendance. The books were circulated amongst the members, and at the Annual Dinner were auctioned, each member and guest present acting as

*In 185, when Mr. Ward issued his pamphlet, the library had been recently removed from premises in George Street, to which no doubt his remarks refer, to the Surrey Street Music Hall, where it remained until 1907.

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auctioneer in turn. The first six members were the Rev. Dr. Philipps, who occupied the chair at the first meeting, the Rev. W. Whitelegge, and the Rev. H. H. Piper, all three of them Unitarian ministers, with Messrs. Nansen, Moorhouse, and Hall Overend the well-known surgeon. In 1808 Mr. T. Asline Ward became Secretary and Treasurer, retaining these posts until 1863. The Book Society is still a flourishing institution in our midst, and celebrated its Centenary by a dinner in 1906.

In 1804 '**A Society for the promotion of useful Knowledge**' was founded in the usual manner by a meeting at the Angel Inn. In the circular calling this meeting the object of the Society is specified as "for literary and philosophical information," and Mr. T. Asline Ward in his diary, in reference to a meeting of this Society which he attended in Dec. 1804, writes of it as "the Literary and Philosophical Society," thus anticipating the title of its successor founded in 1822. On the authority of Hunter there had been a previous attempt to found a similar society, but this had a very short existence.* Among the twenty-eight names appended to this preliminary circular there are those of several gentlemen who were subsequently active supporters of the 'Literary and Philosophical Society,' and the medical profession was well represented. Dr. Younge, Mr. John Sterndale, Mr. Favell, Mr. Ernest, Dr. Cheney, Dr. Davis, and Mr. Hall Overend, were well-known medical men; Mr. Staniforth was probably the Infirmary surgeon; Mr. Hodson (? Hodgson) may have been the surgeon of that name, and Mr. Richard Sutcliffe, a chemist of considerable scientific attainments and reputation, was the son of a local doctor. The original minute book of this

*This was probably "the Society of friends of literature" which voted an address to Mr. James Montgomery on February 11th, 1795, on the occasion of his imprisonment for libel; President, Mr. J. Pye Smith; Secretary, Mr. James Horsfield. (*vide* 'Sheffield Local Register.'

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Society was presented to the Literary and Philosophical Society by Mr. T. Asline Ward in 1840. In the rules of the Society therein recorded its scope is defined as "Literary and Philosophical research, embracing every department of human knowledge with the exception of British politics and religion." The following list of "subjects of discussion balloted for and approved" leans certainly to the philosophical side: "What is Instinct?" "Human Physiology," a comprehensive enough subject, by Dr. Ernest, House Surgeon at the Infirmary. "Does acute sensibility conduce more to the happiness or misery of society?" by Mr. Barnard, a Quaker of literary and poetical tastes. "What is Life?" by Dr. Davis, then Physician to the Infirmary. He subsequently went to London, and was the attendant upon the Duchess of Kent in her accouchement when Queen Victoria was born. "What is the reason that the farina of vegetables, viz., starch, does not dissolve in cold water until it has been immersed in hot?" by Mr. Richard Sutcliffe, the chemist before referred to. "Whether a man ought at any time to give up his own private opinion, when convinced of its truth, to please others?" by Dr. Ernest. "What changes take place in barley during its conversion into malt?" by Mr. Hall Overend. "Setting aside those families and persons who are descended of the more recent settlers in our island, is it not reasonable to suppose the aborigines of this island descended from the kings thereof?" by Mr. Hunter. This paper is reported in the minutes to have given great satisfaction. "On combustion," by Mr. Naylor. "How are we to account for the high caloric produced by friction, and in many chemical operations where combustion is not immediately concerned?" by Mr. Sylvester. Charles Sylvester was no longer residing in Sheffield when the Literary and Philosophical Society came into existence, but

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he was one of the earliest elected honorary members of that Society, together with his friends Hunter and Chantrey. Montgomery spoke of him as one of the foremost workers in the field of ‘Magnetism’ and ‘Galvanism,’ and said: “I have been told that it was Mr. Sylvester who fitted up with culinary and other warming apparatus the vessels now on their way to discover the North-West Passage, or to ascertain that it cannot be discovered; and our brave countrymen, at this hour in some region of eternal ice, may be enjoying the comforts of an English dinner, for the means of preparing which, in a polar clime, they are indebted to the ingenuity of a native of Sheffield.” “What is the cause of the ebullition which takes place in silver when passing from a fluid to a solid state after cupellation?” by Mr. Lucas. Mr. Samuel Lucas was a gold and silver refiner, in partnership with Mr. Read of Norton House. This paper was, we are told, mentioned with respect, at a meeting of the Royal Society. “Whether is an uniform regularity of abstemiousness, or an occasional deviation therefrom most conducive to health?” by Mr. J. Moorhouse. “Is it more conducive to health to wear the same kind of clothing in all seasons of the year, or to vary our dress with the changes of the weather?” by Mr. S. Hobson. “On civilization,” by Mr. Favell. “On taste,” by Mr. Barnard. “In what manner does lime act in promoting vegetation when used as a manure?” by Mr. R. Sutcliffe. “Habit,” by Mr. Overend. “Literary resemblance, imitation, plagiarism,” by Mr. Hunter. “Galvanic experiments on potash,” by Mr. Sylvester. “Observations on St. Pierre’s theory of the tides,” by Mr. Wilson. “Observations on the opinions of the Vulcanists and Neptunists relative to the formation and present appearance of the globe,” by Mr. Moorhouse. “The sliding rule, its era of invention and principles of construction,”

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by Mr. R. Sutcliffe. "Sheffield, its situation, manufactures, and their influence on the health and longevity of its inhabitants," by Dr. Davis. "Topography, its objects, progress of the study of it in England, with particular reference to what has been done to illustrate the history of the West Riding," by Mr. Hunter. "The structure of the heart," by Mr. Overend. "A case of morbid sensibility," by Dr. Davis. "On what constitutes personal identity," by Mr. Whitelegge. "On the faculty of judgement," by Mr. Barnard. "What is predisposition to disease?" by Mr. Overend.

From the titles of the subjects and the minutes of the meetings it is evident that the Society became largely a Debating Society; though chemical experiments and demonstrations by Mr. Sutcliffe are recorded.

The rules are framed very precisely, as for example: "At seven o'clock in the evening precisely, the time to be regulated by the parish clock, the President shall take the chair." Every member "to conduct himself with politeness and affability during the course of conversation, and to study as far as possible to preserve the dignity and promote the important ends of the institution." This would appear to reflect upon Sheffield manners. The Society appears to have come to an abrupt termination, as the minutes cease to be recorded after November 27th 1805 without any explanation.

The birth of the '**Sheffield Literary and Philosophical Society**,' the Society of to-day, took place at the Cutlers' Hall on December 12th 1822. After the collapse of the former Society, at the close of 1805, some years intervened; but amongst the supporters of the movement in 1822 appear the names of several gentlemen associated with the 'Society for the Promotion of Useful Knowledge.' Amongst them Mr. Thomas Asline Ward, who was then President of the

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'Subscription Library' and Treasurer and Secretary of the 'Book Society,' is a prominent figure. In his Diary, under the date of Nov. 6th 1822, is the following entry: "I attended and presided at a meeting for considering the propriety of establishing a Literary and Philosophical Society"; and again, on Nov. 14th, "I drank tea and supped with Dr. Knight, having met at his house to consider an address to be laid before the public respecting the intended Literary and Philosophical Society."

Whoever was responsible for the drafting of this address is entitled to credit for a fine piece of literary composition. Its introductory paragraphs run as follows:

"It can scarcely be necessary, in the present state of social refinement, to insist on the advantages attending the cultivation of literature, or on the facilities afforded in this noble pursuit by that combination of efforts and interchange of knowledge which are the objects of literary institutions. The utility of Science is everywhere visible. She is no longer a recluse in the cell of the monk, or the closet of the student; but she walks abroad in the bustle of the world, mingles with our ordinary pursuits, lights our streets, descends into our mines, gives motion to our ships, and is the presiding genius of our manufactories.

"Never, indeed, was there a time when knowledge was rendered so subservient to the practical concerns of life: and when we look forward to the improvements which may yet be made, to the field which is still open for invention and discovery, even the refined calculations of self interest would teach us to exert every effort to aid its progress and disseminate its light. But there are higher views. The spirit of liberal curiosity cannot be contented with ignorance amidst increasing intelligence. Every man of the least taste or refinement, or elevation of

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mind, must wish to possess some acquaintance with those brilliant discoveries which have lent a new interest to the works of creation, with those arts and sciences by which his country has distinguished itself in the rivalry of nations, and which form the true glory of our age. It is, accordingly, gratifying to find that, under the influence of the growing intelligence of the times, our largest towns have already exerted themselves in the formation of Literary Societies and Philosophical Institutions. Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds, Newcastle, and Birmingham have all preceded us in this necessary step in the progress of society. They have succeeded : and there is no reason to apprehend that Sheffield may not experience similar success. If opportunities for improvement in literature and philosophy be offered to the present and rising generation, they will certainly be embraced, and it is incumbent upon all who have the power of thus benefitting others, to enlarge the sphere of useful knowledge as the direct means of counteracting the influence of ignorance and error. The plan now suggested for this purpose has been formed out of a number of others adopted in various parts of the kingdom, from which such arrangements have been selected as appear most applicable to the circumstances of our own situation. As social intercourse and free discussion on literary and philosophical subjects are conducive to the development of truth, the correction of error, and the advancement of science, it is proposed that these shall form a principal part of the business of this society ; and since lectures accompanied by experiment may be regarded as bringing all theory to the test of fact and reality, such means of improvement will constitute another most important feature in the intended plan."

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Then follow the outlines of the proposed constitution of the Society, upon which the Committee subsequently drafted the rules.

The meeting at the Cutlers' Hall was presided over by Dr. Knight, and the following principal resolutions were submitted and carried:—

1st. “That the present advanced state of society renders it highly desirable that every populous district should contain some Public Institution, dedicated to the cultivation and advancement of literature and science; and it is the opinion of this meeting that such an institution would be of essential advantage to the local interests of the town and neighbourhood of Sheffield, by furnishing the inhabitants with opportunities of intellectual improvement which they could not individually command, and by contributing to the diffusion of liberal knowledge amongst all classes.”

2nd. “That in conformity with these views an Association be now formed, for the promotion of polite literature and science, under the title of ‘The Sheffield Literary and Philosophical Society.’”

The Chairman, Dr. Knight, enlarging upon the objects of the proposed Society in his speech, said:

“It was sought to collect those valuable yet transient thoughts which sometimes float through our minds to the gulf of oblivion, useless to ourselves and to mankind—to elicit from friendly collision of sentiment those scintillations of mind, which, while they delight the hearer, sometimes astonish even the speaker—that in short, the object of the proposed society was the improvement of the human mind. In the present enlightened



JAMES MONTGOMERY,
President in 1824, 1827, 1833, and 1841

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state of society it was unnecessary to advocate the cause of Knowledge; its blessings were admitted by all, or if denied by any, only by those bigots who will not reason, those slaves who dare not reason, or those fools who cannot."

Mr. Montgomery followed with a long address, referring at the opening to Byron's sneer at "classic Sheffield," in connection with Montgomery himself, in his 'English Bards and Scotch Reviewers.' In attempting seriously to justify the application of such an expression to Sheffield, Montgomery referred by name to four individuals who had, he said, shed lustre on the name of Sheffield: Jonathan Salt, Charles Sylvester, Joseph Hunter, and Francis Chantrey. Mr. Jonathan Salt was a botanist and entomologist of eminence in the district. Montgomery claimed for him wider celebrity, and described an occasion on which Mr. Salt was able to demonstrate to another eminent botanist visiting Sheffield a very rare plant growing in Old Park Wood (now a populous district in Neepsend parish), which had not previously been found on British soil. Mr. Salt's valuable collection of plants and insects were presented to the museum of the Literary and Philosophical Society in 1826. Montgomery's reference to Mr. Sylvester has been before alluded to, and the Rev. Joseph Hunter and Sir Francis Chantrey will, I trust, always remain familiar figures in Sheffield history. Mr. Salt had died before the foundation of the Society, but the other three were amongst the first hon. members elected, having then ceased to reside in Sheffield. The meeting closed with the appointment of a temporary committee to draft the 'Rules and Constitution' of the new Society, preliminary to the first general meeting.

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The first General Meeting of Proprietors and Subscribers, admitted without election in accordance with a resolution passed at the public meeting, was held in the Cutlers' Hall on January 10th 1823, "for the purpose of passing the laws and appointing officers for the ensuing year." Dr. Knight was again in the chair.

"The laws, rules, and constitution of the Sheffield Literary and Philosophical Society," amongst other matters, provided that the Society should consist of Proprietors, Annual Subscribers, and Honorary Members. **Proprietors** were elected by ballot, and paid an entrance fee of two guineas and an annual subscription of the same amount. They were permitted to introduce to the regular lectures two persons, either strangers residing ten miles from Sheffield or ladies or young men under eighteen years of age of their own family; and had the use of the Society's books, which they might not borrow without the special consent of the Council, and apparatus, subject to the control of the same authority. The Proprietors' shares were transferable, subject to the conditions of the ballot. **The Annual Subscribers** were admitted without ballot on payment of a guinea subscription, could attend the regular lectures delivered by members of the Society or otherwise, and had the same privileges of introduction as Proprietors. Ladies were admitted to this class, but were not specified as eligible to become Proprietors. **Honorary Members** were defined as "residing at a distance (not specified), who have been admitted to the Society in consequence of Literary Communications, Donations of value, or other claims." They were not to be subject to any of the expenses of the Society, nor to have any right or share in its property, or voice in its deliberations; but to have free admission to the Literary Meetings and Regular Lectures,

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and also to the Rooms of the Society, subject to existing regulations.

The General Meeting in January was to be the Annual Meeting, at which a President, four Vice-Presidents, two Secretaries, a Treasurer, and a Curator were to be elected by ballot. Their duties were exactly defined by Rules. The Committee, which shortly afterwards became known as the Council, was to consist of twelve Proprietors together with the officials of the Society. Anyone elected on the Committee, if declining to serve, incurred a penalty of half-a-crown, and a fine of sixpence was exacted for unpunctuality in attendance. Seven to be a quorum. The general meetings were to be held on the first Friday in each month at seven o'clock, and to adjourn not later than ten o'clock. Ten Proprietors at least to constitute a quorum.

The business of the Society was divided into Private and Literary. The Private Business consisted of the nomination of Candidates as Proprietors or Hon. Members, the ballot, and all matters relating to the government of the Society. It was to be concluded by half-past seven. In regard to the Literary Business it was provided that all Essays or other compositions should be submitted to one of the Secretaries at least three days before it was proposed to read them at the meeting; and the Secretary had the power, with the approbation of the President or one of the Vice-Presidents, of suspending the reading until the opinion of the Committee had been taken.

The Lectures were to be of two classes. The Regular Lectures of the Society, of which at least eight should be delivered in the year, by Proprietors or others invited by the Committee; and Extraordinary Public Lectures by

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“eminent lecturers,” to which Proprietors and Annual Subscribers and the public at large should be admitted by payment, members being admitted at a reduced rate.

The first Officers appointed at the first General Meeting of the Society were: Dr. Arnold Knight, President; Mr. James Montgomery, Mr. Samuel Bailey, the Rev. T. Cotterill, and Mr. T. Asline Ward, Vice-Presidents; Mr. Offley Shore, Treasurer; Mr. William Jackson, Curator; and Mr. Thomas Waterhouse and Mr. Luke Palfreyman, Secretaries.

The Committee consisted of the following: Mr. J. H. Abraham, Mr. Michael Ellison, the Rev. Dr. Phillips, Mr. Hall Overend, Mr. James Ray, Mr. John Todd, Mr. Edward Barker, Mr. William Lucas, the Rev. H. H. Piper, Mr. William Jeffcock, Mr. B. J. Wake, and the Rev. Peter Wright.

Many of these names are familiar enough to those interested in Sheffield history, and the space at my disposal does not enable me to indulge in much biographical detail, but a few short notes on those who may be regarded as founders of the Society will not be inappropriate.

Sir Arnold Knight, as he afterwards became, the first President of the Society, was Physician to the Infirmary, and received his Knighthood on the presentation of an address to Queen Victoria in 1841. He was one of the founders of the ‘Medical Institution,’ the old Medical School in Surrey Street, in 1828; of the Dispensary in 1832; and of the ‘Mechanics Institute’ in the same year. A contemporary wrote of him: “He was a frequent speaker at Liberal public meetings, a kind, urbane, and universally esteemed gentleman, as well in his professional as in his social relations.” He left Sheffield in 1843 for Liverpool, and died at Little Malvern in 1871.



SAMUEL BAILEY,
President in 1826, 1830, 1831, and 1853.

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James Montgomery, Samuel Bailey, and Thomas Asline Ward were all so intimately identified with the public life of Sheffield, and have been so often the subjects of biographical notice in local publications, that it is unnecessary to go into the details here of their several careers. Of the personal appearance of the first two named, a slight sketch is afforded in an account of an early meeting of the Literary and Philosophical Society in a work on "Sheffield and the Neighbourhood" by John Holland, published in 1865. Montgomery is described as "slender and almost feeble in frame, but with a fine head and penetrating eye, simply and wholly unaffected in manner and utterance; we could not but think how little he realized the idea of a popular politician who had been twice imprisoned for libel; but at the same time how entirely the fine pensive-looking man before us seemed identical with the poet whose works everyone so much admired. . . . It is interesting to add that the Lectures on Poetry and General Literature, delivered before the Royal Institution and elsewhere, and published in 1833, originated in papers read before the Sheffield Society."

To quote from the same source, Samuel Bailey, the "Bentham of Hallamshire" as Lord Brougham once called him, is described as: "Tall, spare, intellectual looking, with gentlemanly address and manners, he reminded one of a clear logical proposition or an abstract idea personified."

Of Mr. T. Asline Ward, the late Mr. R. E. Leader writes, in his Introduction to the published extracts from Mr. Ward's Diaries: "The number of those with whom the benevolent face and the gentle gracious manner of Thomas Asline Ward remain as a pleasant memory is becoming small. In his later years there was little that suggested a strenuous personality, once imbued with martial valour, and in the forefront

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of social and political progress: a vigorous worker, whose public spirit manifested itself in the chief activities, both local and national, of his time. It is certain that no one survives who witnessed his earlier career; it is doubtful whether there is left any contemporary who shares with him the excitement of that Reform period in which, as a leader and champion, he played a notable part."

The Rev. T. Cotterill was vicar of S. Paul's, and is buried before the altar in that church.

Mr. Offley Shore was of Norton Hall, one of the well-known family of Bankers. Mr. William Jackson was a surgeon, as was also Mr. Thomas Waterhouse, and both of them were appointed on the surgical staff of the Sheffield Dispensary when it was founded in 1832. Mr. Luke Palfreyman was a well-known solicitor in the town. Mr. J. H. Abraham, F.L.S., was a schoolmaster and the founder of the old Milk Street Academy, afterwards carried on by his son-in-law, Mr. Bowling. Mr. Abraham was a man of considerable scientific attainments, and took a prominent part in the work of the Society, reading papers and delivering lectures upon Magnetism and Galvanism. He represented the Society, by invitation, at York, on the occasion of the foundation of the British Association in 1831, and read a paper on "Magnetism" before the Association at its first meeting the following year. He was a member of several learned societies, and in 1822 was the recipient of the Gold Medal of the Society of Arts for the invention of a magnetic apparatus, designed to protect the workmen employed in dry grinding from the inhalation of steel dust. The apparatus, however, ultimately proved of little use in practice. It was of the nature of a fan working in a funnel-shaped ventilator, and no doubt suggested other devices which proved of more service.



THOMAS ASLINE WARD,
President in 1829.

The Birth of the Society.

Mr. Michael Ellison was a steward of the Duke of Norfolk's estate. The Rev. Dr. Philipps, the Rev. H. H. Piper, and the Rev. Peter Wright, were all of them Unitarian ministers, Dr. Philipps at Upper Chapel. The two last were also schoolmasters, Mr. Piper at Norton, and Mr. Wright at Stannington. Mr. Piper, who is described by Mr. John Holland as "plain, plump, genial, and frank," figures very frequently in Mr. Asline Ward's Diaries as one of his intimate friends. Mr. Peter Wright was for some time Editor of 'The Northern Star,' a local publication much satirized by Mr. Leader, in the paper read before the Hunter Society previously referred to. Mr. John Todd was another pressman, being the Proprietor and Editor of the 'Sheffield Mercury.' Mr. Hall Overend and Mr. James Ray were well-known surgeons, the first at the Infirmary and the second at the Dispensary.

Mr. Edward Barker was of the Lead Works, one of the Bakewell family, father of the late Mr. J. E. Barker, Q.C. His wife was the daughter of Mr. Hall Overend. He died in 1832 at the early age of 33. His brother, Mr. Thomas Rawson Barker, was also one of the Proprietors of the Literary and Philosophical Society, and held the post of Honorary Secretary. Mr. William Lucas was the son of Mr. Samuel Lucas, who has already been mentioned in connection with the 'Society for the Promotion of Useful Knowledge.' They were related to the Reades of Norton House, and were gold and silver refiners.

Mr. William Jeffcock was in later years the first Mayor of Sheffield, and Mr. Bernard John Wake was the well-known local solicitor of that name.

The professional element preponderated, and theology, law, and medicine were well represented.

With the adoption of the Rules, and the election of Officers and Committee, the birth of the Society was completed, and it was launched upon its career.

II.

NOTES FROM THE MINUTE BOOKS.



THE Committee of the Society met for the first time, at the Cutlers' Hall, on January 17th 1823: and the first General Meeting of Proprietors took place on February 7th following. Amongst the earliest business transacted by the Committee was an application to the Cutlers' Company for permission to continue the use of their Hall for meetings, all expenses being borne by the Society. This permission was readily granted until other arrangements could be made; and the Society continued to hold their meetings there until the Music Hall in Surrey Street, then in course of erection, was completed and adapted for their reception on the ground floor. The transference to the Music Hall took place in July 1824. The 'Sheffield Library,' founded in 1771, was accommodated in the same building until 1907, when it became merged in the Literary and Philosophical Society. The assistance afforded to the Society by the Cutlers' Company was recognized, at the Annual Meeting in January 1827, by a resolution constituting the Master Cutler for the time being a Proprietor of the Society.

The first Public Lecture, or Introductory Address, was delivered by Mr. Montgomery, in the "great room" of the Tontine Inn, on February 21st 1823, to an audience of about 400 people. He chose for his subject "Literature from the earliest ages to the close of the thirteenth century." Dr. Younge had been invited in the first instance to deliver the Address, but apparently did not see his way to comply with

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the request, or perhaps wished Mr. Montgomery to have the honour rather than himself. On March 7th, the Rev. H. H. Piper, the Unitarian Minister at Mr. Shore's Chapel at Norton, introduced, by request, the first discussion at a General Meeting of the Proprietors. The subject of this paper was: "The effects of education and the pursuit of literature in the development of the mind."

Other early business was concerned with arrangements for future papers and discussion, and with the collection of apparatus, books, and specimens for the Museum. The Museum and the Library were regarded from the first as important adjuncts to the Society. Geological, Botanical, and Entomological collections were obtained, and volumes of Reports from sundry scientific societies were solicited or purchased. Presentations of books by their authors and of specimens for the Museum became frequent; and by this means the donors not unfrequently secured admission to the Society as Honorary Members. The first Honorary Members to be elected were: Mr. Francis Chantrey, Mr. Charles Sylvester, the Rev. Joseph Hunter, Mr. Murray, and Sir James Smith. The latter, the President of the Linnean Society, had presented two volumes of which he was the author.

The titles of books presented to the Society show that reading was, in those days, taken very seriously by the members, lighter literature received no encouragement. The first list included "Specimens from the Russian Poets," a translation in two volumes; "Lucian's Dialogues," two volumes; "A selection from the Correspondence of Linnaeus and other Naturalists," two volumes; "Bakewell's Introduction to Mineralogy"; "Catalogue of the Museum of Natural History of the Dublin Society"; "Virgil," two volumes; "Boisgelin's

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Travels," two volumes; and "Accum's Crystallography." Books were only lent out by the special permission of the Council, and there is a note to the effect that Mr. Pashley was allowed the loan of two volumes of "Virgil."

Amongst the early contributions to the proceedings of the Society, of which notice was given, was the announcement of the President, Dr. Knight, that he would open a discussion upon "The peculiar objects which the town and neighbourhood of Sheffield present for investigation to a Society similar to this." Dr. Philipps was requested by the Council to give a course of lectures on "Mechanics," the Society undertaking to furnish the necessary apparatus. The title of this course, ultimately chosen, was "Matter, Motion and Mechanics." Mr. Abraham announced his intention of lecturing on "Magnetism"; Mr. William Jackson of giving "An Account of a Skeleton lately discovered in the neighbourhood of Bolsterstone." Mr. James Rimington, of Broomhead Hall, presented to the Society "the head of an ancient axe, lately found near Bolsterstone"; and Mr. Jackson referred to this axe in his paper. Mr. Samuel Mitchell, one of the best known local antiquaries of that date, presented some "Sepulchral remains found in Derbyshire." The Rev. J. Everett read a paper on "Some Roman Coins lately found near Crookes Moor"; and Mr. E. Barker a paper on "The best method of commencing our Geological Researches, and of forming and arranging a cabinet of minerals."

In the months of October and November 1823 Mr. John Webster delivered a course of twelve lectures on "Electricity, Electro-Chemistry, Chemistry of Nature, Mechanics, Mechanical properties of Water, Hydraulic Engines, Steam and Steam Engines, and Optics." These lectures were delivered in the Assembly Rooms and were well attended. The first two were

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delivered to the Proprietors and Subscribers as part of the eight regular lectures covered by their subscription, a charge for admission being made to the other ten lectures. The public were admitted at a higher charge. The lecturer received sixty guineas for the course, and a further ten guineas for expenses.

In the first Annual Report it is stated that there were, at the close of 1823, 97 Proprietors and 82 Subscribers, making a total of 179 members. There had been eight regular lectures and ten extraordinary lectures. The first year of the Society's existence ended with a satisfactory balance of £350 2s. 5½d.

Some slight alteration of the Rules had been made, amongst them the substitution of the word "Council" for Committee. An attempt to change the title of the Society to "The Sheffield and Hallamshire Literary and Philosophical Society" had been negatived.

Phrenology appears to have interested the Society intermittently for several years. Many lectures and papers were contributed on the subject, dealing with it in a favourable light and treating it as a serious contribution to scientific knowledge. A course of lectures upon it was specially delivered by Dr. John Overend of London in August and September 1824, which led to an incident disturbing to the equanimity of the Society. Mr. John Todd, a member of the Council, announced his intention of reading a paper containing "Some objections to the doctrine of Phrenology," and opened the subject accordingly on January 21st 1825. The discussion upon it was ultimately adjourned until the February meeting, but when called upon to continue it Mr. Todd refused, "and otherwise behaved improperly"; whereupon the Chairman admonished him, "and on a repetition

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of such improper conduct a month's notice was given to him of the intention to move for his expulsion at the general meeting in March." At that meeting Mr. Todd recanted, reading a complete apology for his conduct, which was accepted, and the resolution of expulsion was not put to the meeting.

The entry into occupation of their own rooms in the Surrey Street Music Hall, and the numerous additions to the contents of the Library and Museum, led to the appointment of a salaried assistant to the Honorary Curator. Mr. Dawson was appointed in 1824, to attend the public and private meetings and take care of the books and specimens. "For general attendance on the Society" he received £20 per annum. In 1826 Mr. Fenton was appointed "to attend in the Society's Rooms, copy papers, and attend to the general business." Mr. Dawson's name, however, appears later than this date in connection with the Council's tea. In February 1833 Mr. Fenton resigned, and on March 15th following Mr. John Holland was appointed "Assistant Curator." In later years the latter was known as "the Librarian," an office in which he was succeeded, on his death in 1873, by the late Mr. David Parkes.

In 1826 a third Secretary was temporarily appointed in the person of Mr. Robert Younge, Mr. Thomas Waterhouse the Senior Secretary, retiring the following year, leaving only Mr. Luke Palfreyman and Mr. Younge in office. Mr. Younge was a wine merchant and Church Burgess, a prominent townsman and actively associated in many ways with the work of the Society. He was a great-nephew of Dr. Thomas Younge, and therefore cousin once removed to Dr. William Younge, who was appointed Physician to the Infirmary on its foundation in 1797.

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The Forfeits, levied upon the officers and members of the Council for late attendance at their meetings, were recorded each year against the names in the Council Minute Book. At the meeting on February 2nd 1827 it was "Resolved that the forfeits be collected before the next General Meeting, and that the amount be expended in a dinner." This is the first mention of such frivolity as a dinner, and there is no record of it taking place, but in the following December it was resolved that the forfeits should go to providing tea at the Council Meetings, and this was continued from year to year. Apparently other refreshment than the customary glass of water had been supplied to the Lecturers, to judge from the following Council Minute in 1841: "That wine and biscuits be not provided at the Lecture unless at the desire of the Lecturer."

In 1827 a new class of "Corresponding Members," who must reside not less than twenty miles from Sheffield, was created. The Corresponding Membership was abolished in 1848, those members then holding it becoming Honorary Members.

Owing to the rapid expansion of the Museum it was thought necessary at this time to divide up, temporarily at all events, the duties of Curatorship. Mr. William Jackson, the Official Curator, became Curator for Botany, Entomology, and Zoology; Mr. E. Barker Curator for Mineralogy and Geology; Mr. Samuel Mitchell for Antiquities; and Mr. J. H. Abraham and Mr. R. Younge jointly for Philosophical Apparatus and Books. Estimates were considered by the Council for the fitting up of a Laboratory. This was, a few years later, converted into the Council Room and Library.

The Sixth Annual Report (for 1828) is missing, and no copy is known to exist. A memorandum stated that it

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was lost in the hands of the Rev. H. H. Piper, the President, and was therefore never printed. A printed copy of a paper on "The History of the Surgery of Sheffield," read that year by Mr. Samuel Mitchell, is inserted in the volume of Reports in the Society's Library. The Eighth Annual Report (for 1830) exists only, in this volume, in manuscript form; in the handwriting of Mr. John Holland. The manuscript gives only the Report itself, with the names of the Officers and Members of the Council elected that year.

At a Council Meeting in March 1828 the idea was first mooted of building a "Philosophical Hall"; and as at that time it had been decided to found a Medical School in Sheffield, the Medical Faculty were approached with a view to co-operation in a joint building. The latter body, very naturally, declined. The project of possessing a hall of their own to accommodate the growing Museum and Library, and afford adequate accommodation for lectures, reading room, &c., though it has never materialized, was pursued intermittently for many years by the Society. Sites were discussed in Glossop Road, opposite the Baths, in Norfolk Street, and Fargate. Plans were several times prepared, and on one occasion we find a vote of thanks passed to Mr. Flockton for his assistance, as a member, with professional advice and "architectural designs." In 1841 the Committee of the 'Mechanics Institute' were seeking a site for a Hall, and they were approached by a Committee of the Society with a view to securing a site which would be suitable "for erecting Halls for the two Institutions." The Mechanics subsequently acquired a site for themselves, at the corner of Surrey Street and Tudor Street, and erected the building which is now the Central Reference Library. Considerable sums of money were promised towards the erection of a 'Philosophical Hall,'"

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and a special account was opened with the Sheffield Banking Company in 1845; but the scheme continued to hang fire, and it remained a project and nothing more. At a later date, in 1876, when Mr. Mark Firth was planning the building which became Firth College, communications were opened with him, through the President of the Society, Mr. William Baker, to ascertain if he would consent to include permanent accommodation for the Literary and Philosophical Society in his plans for the buildings. Nothing came of this suggestion. A suggestion to purchase the Surrey Street Musical Hall was considered in 1884, but was decisively negatived.

Although the Surrey Street Music Hall had only been built about four years, we find the Council of the Society much exercised in mind over the stability of the building in 1828. This rumoured insecurity aroused general anxiety and comment in the town at intervals, during the many years in which the Hall continued to be used as a public building. I can well remember gloomy prognostications of disaster which were happily never fulfilled. The excellent acoustic properties of the large Concert Hall won the commendation of many great singers who visited Sheffield in old days and sang in it.

The Council in early days were anxious that the Society should possess a seal, and at their meeting on March 5th 1824 Dr. Knight, Mr. Montgomery, and the Secretaries were empowered to procure the same. It does not appear that any action was taken then; but at a later meeting, held in July 1830, a design for a seal by Mr. Montgomery was adopted, and he was requested to have it engraved. On December the 10th 1830 a further resolution appears "that the bill for the seal be passed; and that the impression accompanying the seal be presented to Mr. Montgomery with the thanks of the Society for his exertions." When the

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removal of the Society from Leopold Street to its present premises took place in 1907 this seal was discovered, and a reproduction of it appeared in the Annual Report of 1909. It bears the busts of Horace and Plato, exemplifying Literature and Philosophy, and the motto, "Sapere Aude" (Dare to be Wise). The motto is a curious one, and one feels that Mr. Montgomery might have chosen something more appropriate. One is also forced to the conclusion that the poet's artistic conception was inferior to his literary gifts. There is no evidence in existence of the use of this seal. "Honorary Diplomas" appear to have been issued to Honorary Members at one time, and they may have borne the impression of this seal.

In 1833, in the Minute Book, no less than seven and a half pages are taken up with an amusing correspondence and the minutes of two Special Council Meetings held in connection with it. A Lecturer from a distance was engaged to deliver a course of six lectures on "Poetry." Dissatisfaction had been expressed as to his "mode of reciting" early in the course, and a letter was sent to him from the Council requesting him, in the subsequent lectures, to shorten his illustrations and to read them instead of reciting them. This letter, from Dr. C. F. Favell, one of the Secretaries, proceeds: "First I must observe that the quotations which you give at the conclusion of each lecture are much too long. I am sure you would give much more satisfaction if, instead of reciting one or two quotations of three or four pages each from an author, you were to give even a greater number of shorter passages. Secondly I object not only to the length of the quotations, but more especially to the manner in which they are given. At our Society we are quite unaccustomed to *stage effect*, and I regret that the feelings of several of our

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subscribers were so outraged on Friday evening that they left the room. This must have been painful to you, and I assure you it was so to us. My second request then is that you will *read* your illustrations. The sentiments which I have now expressed I hold in common with by far the greater part of your audience, with the whole of the Council, and with our esteemed President (Mr. Montgomery) himself."

To this letter the Lecturer replied, deprecating the censure passed upon his qualifications and style as a lecturer, and alluding particularly to the "brutal attacks" upon him in the local press, naming the 'Mercury' and 'Iris,' which had, he said, already lost him a valuable engagement from the Literary Society at Hull, on the admission of the Chairman of that Society himself. A very lengthy Resolution passed by the Council of the Sheffield Society follows the insertion of this communication in their minutes. Special stress is laid on "the dramatic style" of the recitations, and the request to the Lecturer to adopt "a more chastized and temperate mode" of delivering his quotations. "The terms reading and reciting," proceeds the resolution, "however inadequate to express the difference between impressive and violent utterance of the same passages either of prose or of verse, were purposely adopted to avoid others which might have been deemed obnoxious." Finally the Lecturer, while agreeing to abridge the length of his illustrations, declined to accede to the recommendation of the Council to alter the style in which he thought best to deliver them. The Council in conclusion repudiated any charge of instigating the press against the Lecturer, defended their action in engaging him on the ground of his high character and reputation as a lecturer, but intimated to him that if he chose to disregard their advice, given to him in his own interest as well as in the interest of his audience, he must "take the consequences."

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At a Council meeting held shortly afterwards a letter was read from a member of the Society requesting that his name might be erased from the list of those who had promised papers this year "in consequence of the correspondent in the 'Mercury' making the meetings of the Society public."

At this time reporters were not admitted to the meetings; but at a special General Meeting of the Society, held eight years later, it was resolved: "That Proprietors in this Society being publishers of newspapers may be allowed to introduce their Reporters to the Public Lectures, and the reading of Papers and subsequent discussions at the Monthly Meetings."

The following Council Minute, dated May 6th 1836 reads: "Dr. Holland having intimated to the Lecture Sub-Committee that he was not willing to deliver any more lectures before the Society without being paid for them, it was resolved that, as arrangements had been made for the engagement of Dr. Ritchie to deliver a course of lectures in the autumn, the Council is not at liberty to engage Dr. Holland to deliver any lectures during the present year." A subsequent Report states that "Professor Ritchie" was taken ill and died just before the date fixed for his course of lectures, which were to have been upon the subjects of "Heat, Light, and Electricity." The practice of engaging eminent men of science and others from a distance to deliver courses of lectures, often from six to twelve in number, at fees ranging from twenty to sixty guineas for the course, had increased considerably. The payment of members of the Society, too, for courses of lectures which were open to the public at a charge and therefore a source of revenue, was by no means infrequent. At this same Council meeting in 1836 a grant of £21 was made to Mr. Montgomery, a Proprietor and ex-President like Dr. Holland, for a course of lectures on "Poetry." Whether these facts

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influenced Dr. Holland in his attitude or not it is difficult to say. In the following year, 1837, the Council were moved to regret, in their Report, the diminution in the valuable aid formerly received from members in the form of gratuitous lectures.

On July 1st 1836 Mr. John Holland, then Assistant Curator, reported "that he had called upon Mr. S. Mitchell, and that he declined paying his subscription and forfeits." It is evident that a recalcitrant spirit was abroad amongst prominent members of the Society at this time.

At the Annual Meeting in 1837 a proposal that ladies introduced by the Proprietors should be admitted to the Monthly Meetings was negatived. On June 4th 1867 Dr. Griffiths, before commencing the reading of a paper on "Hair," at one of these meetings, "acknowledged the pleasure he felt at the unusual presence of ladies"; but it was not until January 5th 1869 that their presence was legitimatized by the carrying of a resolution, proposed by Mr. W. Baker, that "ladies be admitted, as subscribers, to the Monthly Meetings of the Society, and also by a Proprietor's order."

A petition was drawn up in 1837 by the Society, in conjunction with the 'Birmingham Institution,' to Parliament, seeking to obtain exemption on the part of Philosophical Societies from the payment of taxes. In view of this petition the following resolution, passed by the Society a year later, is rather puzzling: "An application from the Birmingham Society for a return of the rates paid by the Sheffield Society having been read, it was resolved that a reply be forwarded stating that *hitherto no rates or taxes have been imposed on this Society.*" However, the efforts of the Society in this matter, in conjunction with other similar bodies, appear to have borne fruit, from the following instruction to a specially

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formed Committee in 1843: "To enquire how far this Society may be benefitted by the Act recently passed to exempt buildings occupied by Scientific Societies from taxes and local rates." In more recent years, in 1903, when the Society was in occupation of premises in Leopold Street, a similar question was raised by Mr. J. Newton Coombe having drawn the attention of the Council to the fact that under an old Act of Parliament still in force the Society was under certain conditions exempt from local taxation. Mr. Coombe, in conjunction with the Treasurer, Mr. Arnold Watson, was instructed to endeavour to obtain such exemption. At a Council Meeting, October 6th 1903, the Treasurer announced that they had been successful, except in connection with a room which the Society let to the Sheffield Society of Architects and Surveyors. The amount saved in local taxation was estimated at about £27 per annum. Inhabited House Duty was afterwards claimed and paid in consequence of there being a door by which the caretaker of the premises had access to the Society's rooms.

Ebenezer Elliott, an agitator for the reform of the Corn Laws and a local poet, had been nominated as a Proprietor of the Society. The meeting at which he was ballotted for, on March 7th 1839, was not well attended, and the votes recorded were 8 for and 5 against, not a sufficient majority to secure his election. Mr. Elliott was an ardent politician, rather given to violent invective on occasions, but respected by those who knew him intimately and made allowance for his passionate zeal in attacking what he regarded as abuses inflicting injustice and suffering upon his own class. He would no doubt be regarded as a dangerous man by some of the Proprietors of the Society. As soon as his rejection became generally known most of the leading spirits in the

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Society perceived that a mistake had been made; and at the next General Meeting in April he was again proposed and this time unanimously elected, 29 Proprietors being present. Mr. Elliott, however, declined to accept election, and his original letter, attached to the Minutes in the Society's possession, runs as follows:—

“Sheffield, 6th April 1839. Sirs—I reply to your favour of yesterday. Allow me to say, that my son Jack, for whose benefit I proposed to become a member of your Society, having, since my rejection and before my election, decided to go out apprentice, I should get no equivalent for my money (being myself too old to learn) if I now consented to become a Proprietor. Now my money must breed, for I have many palaced paupers to keep. You will therefore oblige me by passing a pen through my name. I am, sirs, Respectfully yours obedt.

EBENEZER ELLIOTT.”

The ‘Mechanics Institution’ were endeavouring to raise funds towards acquiring a site and erecting a Hall, and in 1840 held an Exhibition in Sheffield, for which the Literary and Philosophical Society granted the use of their Museum and the specimens in it. In an autograph letter from Mr. Montgomery, addressed to the President of the Society, Dr. Knight, which is attached to the Council Minutes, speaking of this forthcoming Exhibition and the object for which it was being held, the writer says: “If we as a body had half the spirit which the Mechanics have, we should present a very different aspect before the public than we have yet been able to do. They take by storm while we are only mining and sapping.”

That great Banking catastrophe in Sheffield, the failure of Parker, Shore and Company’s private Bank, took place

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on January 16th 1843; and the Council of the Society, the following year, reported that the entire capital of the Society, £193 4s. 8d., was involved. In common with other creditors the Society ultimately received a dividend of five shillings in the pound.

In 1833, after a period of some prosperity for the first few years of its existence, the affairs of the Society had given rise to some anxiety. The Annual Subscriptions had fallen from £493 in 1823 to £219 in 1833. This state of things had continued, so that the financial position of the Society in 1843 was affected by even the comparatively small sum involved in the failure of the Bank. The Society in the course of a century has had its ‘ups and dwns’; there have been critical times, which have been surmounted by the business acumen of its Treasurers, who have served the Society well.

The Report for 1845 refers to a “*Soirée*” given by the Society in this year. This was the first entertainment of the kind in the annals of the Society, and special mention is made of the services of Mr. Chadburn, a member of the Council, in providing the microscopes, in which great interest was taken. He was one of the well-known family of opticians, and presented a beautiful microscope of his own construction to the Society. His services to the Society in connection with optical apparatus are frequently referred to in the Reports.

In the Report for the year 1847 a new departure is chronicled in the institution of an Annual Excursion in the summer. Roche Abbey was selected for the first excursion. On August 26th “the weather was favourable, and the bodily exercise being united with intellectual activity and the interchange of amicable sentiments, in the midst of great natural

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beauty and numerous objects of interesting contemplation, the day was spent in a most delightful manner." For a full and detailed account of the proceedings the Council refers the readers of its Report to the Sheffield newspapers, and especially to the "Sheffield Mercury" of August 28th, "containing an article on the subject from our highly valued Assistant Curator Mr. John Holland." The excursion the following year was to Castleton, in 1849 to Hardwick Hall ; and in 1850 to Walton Hall near Wakefield, where the Society was received and entertained by the owner, Charles Waterton, the famous naturalist and traveller, who showed the members his interesting collections. The perusal of his adventures was a source of joy to me in my boyhood, though an account of a ride down the Nile on the back of a crocodile rather shook my faith in his credibility, as savouring too much of the wonderful feats of Baron Munchausen, with which I was also familiar in my youth.

In 1852 the Society visited Middleton Hall near Youlgreave in Derbyshire, and inspected Mr. T. Bateman's archæological museum, and the results of his excavations of tumuli. Most of these collections are now in the Weston Park Museum. These excursions became for some years an annual fixture.

The first general revision of the "Laws, Rules and Constitution" of the Society having taken place at the close of 1847, the Rules as altered and amended were ordered to be entered on the minutes at a General Meeting held February 4th 1848. No fundamental change was made, a few slight modifications only, but the following clauses were added: (1) Empowering the Council to make arrangements, once in every year, for the delivery of a course of lectures to young persons, under twenty-one years of age, on Experimental Philosophy or Natural History; (2) Admitting

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Ministers of Religion, of less than two years standing or residence in the town, to the lectures as "strangers."

On December 10th 1858 Mr. H. Clifton Sorby gave notice of a resolution advocating the holding of an Annual Conversazione. A Conversazione was accordingly held on January 19th 1860 at the Music Hall, at which 630 ladies and gentlemen were present. The Report for the following year states that this innovation had proved so popular that in future the issue of tickets would have to be restricted owing to the difficulties of accommodation. In 1867 an announcement was made that the next Conversazione would be held "in the new Cutlers' Hall," the spacious new Banqueting Hall having been recently erected with other extensions of the premises; and the Conversaziones continued to be held there annually, with success, until 1904. In that year, "owing to difficulties," not specified, no Conversazione was held; nor yet in 1905; but was resumed in 1906. Although in the latter year it is stated that the Conversazione had been such a success that it was proposed to continue it "every few years" there has been no Conversazione since.

Dr. Sorby was always foremost in making the arrangements for the Conversazione, and he was able to secure the exhibition of the most recent scientific apparatus, as well as collections of great artistic and archæological interest. He undoubtedly contributed greatly towards maintaining their high character and popularity for many years.

In 1862 a Resolution appears on the Minutes of the General Meetings requesting the Council to appoint a Sub-Committee to confer with a Committee "recently appointed for the promotion of a School of Practical Science," and to report upon "the expediency of connecting the proposed school with the Society." There is no subsequent entry

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in the minutes to show that this resolution was ever acted upon; but in the Council Minutes of June 4th 1863 it was "Resolved that the Museum be opened to the workmen attending the classes of the School of Practical Science at the discretion, and under the charge, of the Curator." The 'School of Practical Science' was promoted by the Rev. G. B. Atkinson, M.A., Principal of the Collegiate School, who took an active interest in engineering; and both day and night classes were held in the Collegiate School. It was an attempt to found a 'Technical School,' but only lasted a few years, Mr. Atkinson leaving Sheffield in 1870.*

For forty years the Society had tenanted the premises at the Surrey Street Music Hall, having taken them from July 1st 1824. Alterations were contemplated by the Proprietors of the Music Hall, and a Committee of the Society had been in conference with them in reference to enlarging the Museum, and other mutual arrangements including a new and more advantageous lease. To these proposals the Music Hall Proprietors would not assent. In consequence of the proposed alterations the Society received six months notice to terminate their tenancy; but the Music Hall Proprietors intimated that this was only a formal notice, and that they would be glad to retain the Society as tenants on a new agreement. Ultimately a new arrangement was made for the Society to continue their tenancy temporarily as quarterly tenants. Meanwhile negotiations were entered into to transfer the Society and its possessions to the School of Art in Arundel Street. This was not accomplished until 1868; a minute of a General Meeting held on Oct. 6th 1868 recording that "this

*The following entries appear in 'The Sheffield Local Register' for 1862: January 23rd "Meeting in the Council Hall, presided over by Lord Wharncliffe; resolved to establish a School of Practical Science and Metallurgy." Dec. 15th "Soirée to inaugurate the Sheffield School of Practical Science, the Duke of Devonshire in the chair."

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was the first meeting held in the new apartments at the School of Art."

When the removal from the Music Hall was under consideration in 1865, a resolution was submitted at a Special General Meeting to transfer the Society's Museum to the Town Council, but this was not carried, the voting being equal for and against. In 1871, however, at another Special Meeting the following motion was carried: "That upon the establishment by the Town Council of Sheffield of a Free Public Museum, and the provision of such accommodation for it as the Council of the Literary and Philosophical Society shall deem suitable, the said Society hereby authorizes its Council to transfer to the said Free Public Museum its collections of specimens illustrating Natural History, Geology, Mineralogy, Antiquities, Numismatics, Ethnology, and Industrial Art, and also such apparatus as is of historical interest, together with the cases containing the said articles; but not its Library nor Modern Scientific Apparatus." The Town Council accepted and thanked the Society for their generous gift to the town. The Museum was ultimately transferred, on these conditions, in 1875, to Weston Park.

An important resolution affecting the Library of the Society was passed in 1871: "That books shall, from this date, be lent from the Library for periods of time not exceeding 28 days." Books could previously only be taken out of the Library by special permission of the Council, as has been already stated.

At the Annual Meeting of January 2nd 1872 a '**Natural Science Section**' was founded by the following resolution: "That it is desirable that a Section of the Members of the Sheffield Literary and Philosophical Society be formed; the objects of which shall be the promotion of Natural Science;

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the rules and regulations of the said Section to be in strict accordance with those of the parent Society." The chief promoters of the Section were Dr. Clifton Sorby, F.R.S., and Mr. Thomas Andrews, F.R.S.; and it continued in existence until 1909. At its formation only members of the 'Lit. and Phil.' could join the Section, but in 1873 it was proposed and carried that any person might become a member of the Section on payment of the Sectional Fee only, provided that his election by the Members of the Section was ratified by a ballot of the Members of the parent Society, and that he should not be entitled to the use of the property of the parent Society.

A few years later, in 1876, it was resolved: "That the Members of the Archæological Society be invited to join the Literary and Philosophical Society as a special Section, subject to the passing of new rules." This special section does not appear ever to have been constituted, but a long list of members of the 'Sheffield Architectural and Archæological Society' were elected as members of Class B of the Literary and Philosophical Society. It would seem that the Archæological Society became merged in the latter.

The Jubilee of the Society in December 1872 (which does not appear to have been formally recognized in any way) found none of those who had been chiefly instrumental in founding the Society surviving. Montgomery had died on April 30th 1854, aged 82, and had been accorded a public funeral, at which the Society was fully represented. A monument, bearing a life-size statue of him, had been erected by public subscription over his grave in the General Cemetery. His principal coadjutors in the foundation of the Society had all of them died, within a year or two, before the attainment of the Society's Jubilee. Samuel Bailey died on January 28th

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1870, aged 78; Sir Arnold Knight on January 12th 1871, aged 81; and Thomas Asline Ward on November 26th 1871, aged 90. Samuel Bailey had enriched the funds of the Society by a legacy of £1,000, and had left £80,000 to the Town Trustees for public purposes. His portrait was presented to the Society by his executors in pursuance of the terms of his will. The original Diaries of Mr. T. Asline Ward, which formed the groundwork of an interesting publication "Peeps into the Past," dealing with Sheffield History of a century ago and later, are now in the possession of the Society. Mr. C. D. Pettinger presented three of these diaries, and a book of extracts written by Mr. Ward, in 1909; and in 1911 Mrs. W. J. Bedford, a granddaughter of Mr. Ward, presented the remainder.

Another figure, prominently identified with the history of the Society though not an original member, Mr. John Holland, passed away on December 28th 1872, the Jubilee month, at the age of 78. The 'Sheffield Local Register,' in chronicling his death, describes him as "probably the most voluminous writer in verse and prose that Sheffield has produced." He was Librarian to the Society for the greater part of half a century, and many, including the writer, retain a recollection of his personality. Mr. J. D. Leader, in his paper read before the Society in 1885 on the first half-century of the Society's history, describing the meetings of the Society in the 'fifties' of the last century, says: "Mr. Holland was always there, like a kindly genius, in his characteristic attire of dress coat, tied shoes, and white handkerchief, flitting about with an air of elaborate old world courtesy." The Council in their Report to the Annual Meeting of January 1873, alluding to Mr. Holland's recent death and the loss of his valuable services to the Society, say of him: "His devotion to literature was only



JOHN HOLLAND,
Assistant Curator and Librarian, 1833—1872.

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surpassed by the rare excellence of his heart, and his many Christian virtues." He was a frequent contributor to the Society's proceedings in the form of papers; many upon subjects connected with local history and topography; and as late as February 6th 1872, less than a year before his death, we find him reading a paper on "Snuffing." His bust, by Theophilus Smith, which was subscribed for by his fellow townsmen, is placed in the Cutlers' Hall. A plaster medallion of him, by the same sculptor, is in the possession of the Society; the gift of Sir Samuel Roberts, Bart, M.P., whose father, Mr. Samuel Roberts of the Towers, was, before his death in 1887, the last survivor of the original members of the Society, though he never took an active part in its affairs.

In 1862 the Council of the Society had been able to report "a considerable accession to the number of Proprietors and Subscribers," and the marked success of the Conversaziones. The Report of the Jubilee year also announces an improvement in the financial position of the Society, stating that "its funds are in a more flourishing condition than in any previous year"; and about this time references to investments occur not infrequently in the Minutes. No doubt, the late Mr. Bailey's legacy had contributed to this prosperity.

Papers read by Mr. J. D. Leader, our local historian and an active supporter of the Society, on the Roman Camp at Templeborough near Rotherham, led to excavations being undertaken upon the site of the camp in 1877. These investigations resulted in discoveries of much interest and value, and towards the cost of this work the Society subscribed. Recent exploration amplified and extended these earlier researches; but, alas! nothing further can ever be elicited on the spot. Industrial expansion has wiped out Templeborough.

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A novel and unique form of address was adopted by the President, Mr. John Hall of Norbury, at the Society's Conversazione in 1878. It was delivered in verse, a medium in which Mr. Hall possessed remarkable fluency.

The year 1879 was notable for the first visit to Sheffield of the British Association, the difficulties with regard to accommodation having been surmounted by the enlargement of the Cutlers' Hall in 1867. Very appropriately, Dr. Clifton Sorby was elected President of the Society for the fifth time, partly out of compliment to the Association of which he was so distinguished a member. The Society voted £100 to the Reception Fund.

A veteran member and active supporter of the Society, Alderman John Hobson, died February 20th, 1889, aged 73. He had been a member for 50 years, and President in 1869. He was a regular attendant at the meetings, and contributed some interesting papers on his travels on the continent. His well-known genius for finance proved of the greatest benefit to the Society in the office of Treasurer, which he held for fourteen years.

On Dec. 30th 1896 a special meeting of the Council was called, in view of the desirability of commemorating Dr. Sorby's fifty years connection with the Society, and "his many distinguished scientific and other public services." He was invited to again accept the office of President for the ensuing year, and Mrs. Waller was commissioned to paint his portrait for the Society. On November 1st 1898 the presentation of the portrait, which now hangs in the Society's Rooms, took place.

During the latter part of 1895 the Society moved into new quarters, from the School of Art to rooms in Leopold Street adjoining the Assay Office.

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The Report for the year 1900 refers to the engagement of the Albert Hall to provide accommodation for the large audiences attending some of the public lectures. The Montgomery Hall was also used at times for the same purpose, and later the Victoria Hall.

The Committee of the old Subscription Library having received notice to quit their premises in the Surrey Street Music Hall, which they had occupied ever since the Music Hall was opened in 1824, were faced with the difficulty of finding accommodation to carry on the Library elsewhere, owing to the space required for the very considerable accumulation of books which had taken place in the course of the 135 years of its existence. Overtures were made to the Literary and Philosophical Society for amalgamation, and sufficient support from the members of both institutions being insured, this was accomplished before the close of 1906. Members of the Library who assented to the proposal were ballotted for *en bloc* at a General Meeting of the Society on October 2nd.

This amalgamation necessitated the removal, on the part of the Literary and Philosophical Society, to more extensive premises; and a lease of rooms in St. James' Chambers having been secured, the transfer to their present quarters took place in 1907. Later, in 1917, owing to pressure of space, the University Library was offered such surplus books as were deemed suitable on loan from the Council of the Society. The large portrait of Montgomery by Barber of Derby, in the possession of the Society, was for the same reason loaned to the Improvement Committee of the City Council, and is now at the Town Hall. In place of it the Society now possesses a fine water colour portrait of Montgomery by Richard Smith, which was presented in 1918 by Sir Samuel Roberts, Bart., M.P. A full length figure, in plaster, of the poet

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has been recently presented to the Society by Miss Shrewsbury, as executrix of the late Miss Brammall. It is a miniature reproduction of the statue on his monument at the General Cemetery.

After 33 years service as Librarian, Mr. David Parkes passed away on February 15th 1906, at the great age of 95, retaining his post to the end. He had been president of the Society in 1866, and on the death of Mr. John Holland was appointed Librarian in January 1873. Like his predecessor he had learning and literary gifts, and frequently read papers at the monthly meetings; some of them reminiscences of old Sheffield and of the Society, one on "The Sheffield Dialect." He was learned in Hebrew, and for a time, in his younger days, held the post of Professor of Hebrew at Wesley College. He read papers on ancient Oriental Races, and one on "The Moabite Stone," exhibiting a facsimile of its inscriptions, in the deciphering of which he applied his knowledge of Oriental languages. Mr. Parkes enjoyed the affection and respect of all the members of the Society.

On March 9th 1908 Dr. Henry Clifton Sorby, F.R.S., died, at the age of 82. His name will always be foremost amongst those whose work in connection with the Society contributed so much to maintain its position and importance over a long period of years. The estimation in which he was held by his colleagues is perhaps best expressed in the following resolution passed by the Council of the Society :

"It is with the most sorrowful regret that the Council of the Literary and Philosophical Society record the death of Henry Clifton Sorby, LL.D., F.R.S., who for the long period of more than sixty years had been connected with the Society. He had occupied the Presidential Chair no less than seven times, and at different periods for many



HENRY CLIFTON SORBY, LL D., F.R.S.
President in 1852, 1870, 1871, 1872, 1879, 1897, and 1898;
Hon. Secretary 1849—52, 1859—70, 1886—89, 1899—1908.

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years had acted as one of the Honorary Secretaries. The Council recognize the many benefits his world-wide reputation as a man of science conferred upon the Society, and they are proud to record that many of his most notable scientific discoveries were in the first instance brought before this Society at its monthly meetings. Whilst the friend of all, the Council are aware that to many of his old colleagues he was closely bound by ties of affectionate and intimate friendship, and they recognize that his many distinguished scientific attainments were combined in a character particularly notable for its simplicity, modesty, and generosity."

At the same meeting at which this resolution was passed, a letter was read from the Rev. Ernest Sorby, one of the executors of the late Dr. Sorby, conveying the intelligence that the latter had left by will to the Society £500, and such of his books as would complete or continue any series of books possessed by the Society.

At the Council Meeting held October 6th 1908, a letter was read from Dr. Simeon Snell, resigning his Secretaryship after twenty-one years service, the longest period of service as Secretary in the annals of the Society. Thus by the death of Dr. Sorby and the resignation of Dr. Snell both secretarial posts were rendered vacant. Mr. T. Skelton Cole was asked to fill the place of Dr. Sorby; and Mr. T. P. Lockwood, who had been Hon. Secretary to the Subscription Library and had been active in securing the amalgamation, was subsequently elected as Mr. Cole's colleague. Dr. Snell's death took place the following year. A resolution of condolence with his widow and family, passed by the Council of the Society, concludes in the following terms :—

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"His advice was always eagerly sought, and the Council desire to recognize that no small part of the Society's continued progress and success must be attributed to his foresight and wise counsel. They likewise desire gratefully to record his unfailing courtesy and kindness of heart, which greatly facilitated the work of the Council and endeared him to every one of his colleagues."

An enlarged photograph of Dr. Snell, presented by the Council, hangs in the Society's Library.

The name of Dr. Snell as Hon. Secretary for the period of twenty-one years, cannot fail to recall the name of Mr. Edward Birks, who died April 11th 1899, after having been Hon. Secretary for a period of eighteen years, and Dr. Snell's colleague for nine years. Mr. Birks joined the Society in 1863, and the Council in 1879, becoming Hon. Secretary in the latter year and holding that office until the end of 1898, with two years intermission, in 1887 when he was President and in 1888. His hobby was Botany, upon which subject he lectured at the old Medical School for many years. He contributed in many ways to the work of the Society, and read papers on botanical and other subjects.

The Report for the year 1909 announces the closing of the Natural Science Section, which was founded in 1872 as has been already mentioned. The reasons for its discontinuance are thus given in the Report: "Owing to the fact that the work of the Section had been to a certain extent superseded by the various scientific societies which had come into existence since its foundation, and owing to the deaths of Dr. H. Clifton Sorby F.R.S., and Mr. Thomas Andrews F.R.S. (two of the original members of the Section), it was agreed that the time had come for it to be discontinued. This was accordingly done; and on March 4th 1909, the balance of its funds, the



PROFESSOR W. M. HICKS, D.Sc., F.R.S.,
President in 1890, 1903, and 1910.

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various books of the Section, and a science lantern purchased by it, were transferred to your Society."

The Report of 1910 chronicles the second visit of the British Association to Sheffield. As on the occasion of the first visit in 1879, when Dr. Clifton Sorby was elected President of the Society for the year on account of his active connection with the Association, so in anticipation of the Association's visit in 1910 Professor W. M. Hicks D.Sc., F.R.S., for a similar reason, was elected President of the Society. This was Professor Hicks' third term of office as President, having held it in 1890 and 1903. He came to Sheffield in 1883 as Principal of Firth College. He was also the Professor of Physics and Professor of Mathematics; and was at that time well known in the scientific world for original research. He obtained the Hopkins prize in 1885, only awarded every three years, by the University of Cambridge, "For the most meritorious research work in Mathematical or Experimental Physics." This was immediately followed by his election as F.R.S.; and in 1912 he was awarded the Medal of the Royal Society. Professor Hicks, from his first appearance in Sheffield, devoted himself to developing University ideals in the city. It was an uphill fight, but in conjunction with Dr. Sorby and Sir Henry Stephenson, and later with Sir Frederick Mappin on the Technical side, he saw his ideals carried out in the foundation of the Sheffield University. He became the first Vice-Chancellor of the University in 1905, but soon resigned this position to devote himself more exclusively to his work as Professor of Physics. During his thirty-four years residence in the city he was a warm supporter and active worker in connection with the Literary and Philosophical Society, particularly in the Natural Science Section. After leaving

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Sheffield he obtained the Adams Prize, in 1921; a prize, offered every two years by the University of Cambridge, for an essay on some subject of Pure Mathematics, Astronomy, or other branch of Natural Philosophy. This prize has only been awarded seventeen times in seventy years. The departure of Professor Hicks from Sheffield was a great loss to the Society and to the City.

The Annual Report of 1912 makes special mention of a paper read before the Society by the late Mr. Charles Green, a Sheffield sculptor, on "The Sculptor's Art," with special reference to the Busts, &c., in the Society's possession. Illustrations of some of these Busts accompany the abstract of the paper printed in conjunction with the Report. An Account of the Busts and Portraits in the possession of the Society will be found in the Appendix to this volume. Mr. Green referred to certain works of art which appear to be missing at the present time: a painting of Shakespeare by William Poole, a Sheffield artist, and two designs for medals, made for the Society by Edward Law. To these must be added two busts, one of Ebenezer Elliott and one of Sir Francis Chantrey, presented to the Society in 1842 and 1843 respectively.

The Report of 1914 mentions the completion of the collection of photographic portraits of Past Presidents of the Society, which had been accomplished mainly through the exertions of Mr. Arnold T. Watson, the Hon. Treasurer. These photographs are now arranged in chronological order in three handsomely bound volumes. The series is complete with only two exceptions: Dr. H. P. Harwood, President in 1836, and Mr. William Lucas, President in 1844.

In 1921 the Subscription of Proprietors was raised from two to two and a half guineas. The Report for that year shows a total membership of 476, a slight increase over 1920 figures.



III.

LECTURES AND PAPERS.

N endeavouring to give some idea of the work of the Society, as set forth in the Annual Reports, it is of course only possible, in the space at my disposal, to mention a very small number relatively of the Lectures delivered and the Papers read at the meetings. These in the course of a century number a thousand or more; and it is perhaps a somewhat invidious task to make a selection of such a limited character. I have been guided in doing so partly by the standing and reputation of the author, or the importance and general interest of his subject, but in the main by the desire of showing the attraction the Society possessed for men of eminence in literature and science, and the very wide field of knowledge and research covered by the titles of their communications. It is impossible to do more than mention the subject of the lecture or paper, although from 1849 an abstract of most of the monthly papers appears each year in the Society's Reports. Previous to that year in a few cases only, by special request, was the paper printed *in extenso* and circulated with the Report.

I have already mentioned the principal Lectures and Papers referred to in the first Annual Report for the year 1823. Mr. Montgomery, who had delivered the first Public Lecture or Address on the foundation of the Society, again inaugurated the establishment of the Society in its own premises at the Surrey Street Music Hall on July 27th, 1824, by a Public Lecture on "The life and writings of Cowper, the poet." I have

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also alluded to the popularity of the subject of Phrenology and the course of Lectures delivered upon it by Dr. John Overend, of London, with the usual display of casts and skulls, and the *contretemps* which followed some months later from Mr. Todd's paper on the same subject. Papers on Phrenology continued to be read for some years, notably by Dr. G. Calvert Holland and the Rev. H. H. Piper; even Montgomery read two papers and gave a Public Lecture on Phrenology.

The Medical Profession, in the early days of the Society, frequently contributed papers on Anatomical and Physiological subjects, and even upon more strictly professional matters. One medical gentleman exhibited the "apparatus for the operation of Lithotropy" in 1834. Dr. Knight discoursed on "The Anatomy and Physiology of the Ear"; Mr. Waterhouse on "The Eye"; Mr. William Jackson, the surgeon, on "A case of foetal malformation": Mr. Ray, another surgeon, on "The circulation of the blood"; Mr. Williams on "The Skin"; Dr. Knight, again, on "Digestion." Dr. Calvert Holland, in 1842, was responsible for no less than eight out of fourteen papers read before the Society that year, mostly in connection with Physiological subjects. The legal profession also aired their professional knowledge occasionally.

Among the papers read in 1824 was one by Mr. J. H. Abraham on "A recent invention for extracting iron spicula from the eyes of workmen employed in Die-sinking"; and he presented the instrument to the Society's Museum. His invention of a magnetic apparatus to protect dry grinders from the inhalation of steel dust, for which the Society of Arts awarded him their gold medal, has been previously mentioned, and one is therefore led to suppose that this invention in connection with the eye was of the nature of an electro-magnet, the use of

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which was much employed for the same purpose by the late Dr. Simeon Snell.

The Rev. H. H. Piper, a prolific contributor to the work of the Society, read a paper on "The newly-discovered Treatise by Cicero, 'De Republica'." Later, in the same year, he read a paper on "The Dialect of Sheffield and its Neighbourhood," which was so much appreciated that the author was called upon to repeat it the following year as one of the Public Lectures. It was subsequently printed *in extenso* by the Society and circulated with the Annual Report.

Mr. Samuel Mitchell, who worked with the Batemans in connection with prehistoric remains in Derbyshire, and many of whose 'finds' are now in the collection at Weston Park, read a paper in 1824 on "Druidical Remains at Arbor Low in Derbyshire."

In the years 1825 and 1826 courses of lectures were given on various subjects, such as Chemistry, Geology, and Botany, by well-known lecturers. A course of twelve lectures on Chemistry was given by Mr. R. Philipps, with experiments for which the Society provided the requisite instruments and material.

In their Report for 1829 the Council regret that not more use is made of the apparatus installed in the Museum for scientific study and research in various branches of Physics, &c., and draw attention also to the growing value of the collections of Minerals and Entomological and Botanical specimens. In 1824 a valuable collection of minerals had been presented by Sir Francis Darwin; and in 1832 Mr. George Bennet, a former inhabitant and benefactor of the town, began his gifts to the Society's Museum and Library. These he continued from time to time to the end of his life in 1841. He travelled all over the world, in connection with Missionary work, for many years,

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particularly amongst the South Sea Islands; enriching the Society's Collections with many rare and curious objects acquired in his travels. A short notice of him appears in the Society's Annual Report for 1841.

Some of the titles of Lectures and Papers contributed during the year 1829 will serve to illustrate the variety of subjects which engaged the attention of the Society; Mr. J. H. Abraham lectured on "Astronomy"; Dr. N. Philipps on "The History of Eloquence"; Dr. G. C. Holland on "The influence of mind over body"; Mr. Montgomery on "Modern British Poets"; and the Rev. H. H. Piper on "The History of Greece." Papers were also read by: Mr. Piper on "The Epicurean and Stoic Philosophy"; the Rev. P. Wright on "Several Systems of Education"; the Rev. Joseph Hunter, F.S.A., on "The Personal Nomenclature of England"; Mr. R. Younge on "The importance of manipulation in Chemistry," and again on "The Progress of Science during the years 1827-8." Dr. G. C. Holland read a paper on "The mode in which stimuli influence the operations of the mental faculties"; Mr. Samuel Bailey a paper on "The art of reasoning as taught by Aristotle and his followers"; Mr. Fincham a paper on "The Chlorides"; and Mr. Samuel Mitchell one on "The Peak of Derbyshire at the time of the Conquest."

Perhaps the most comprehensive effort in the lecture line ever attempted was that by Mr. J. G. Wood, F.A.S., when he dealt with "The History, Cultivation, Architecture, etc." (note the recklessness of that etc.!) "of Egypt, Arabia, Persia, India, Greece, Rome, and Great Britain," **in three lectures!**

The Report for 1831 mentions the attendance at York of Mr. J. H. Abraham, as the representative of the Society, at the meeting held there on Sept. 27th 1831, when the 'British Association' was founded. For many years subsequently the

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Association continued to invite representatives of the Society to its Annual Meetings; and in 1837 the Rev. J. Blackburn attended at Liverpool, and at a subsequent meeting of the Literary and Philosophical Society he announced that he had presented an invitation to the British Association to hold an early meeting in Sheffield. The want of suitable accommodation in Sheffield for such a gathering, at that time, proved an obstacle to the acceptance of this invitation, and it was not until 1879 that the first visit of the Association to Sheffield took place.

In 1827 the Rev. H. H. Piper, whose versatility was remarkable, lectured on "Music"; and this would seem to have been the first appearance of music in the lecture programme of the Society. In 1831 two lectures on "Music and Musical Sounds" were delivered by Mr. Addams; and in the Report for 1833 there is special mention of six lectures on "Vocal composition and performance" by Mr. T. Philipps, which were much appreciated.

In 1833 the Council resolved that Mr. W. Jackson, Mr. Boultbee, and Dr. Favell (all of them medical men), be authorized to make the necessary arrangements for keeping a Meteorological Journal.

In 1834 the Rev. Dyonisius Lardner, LL.D., gave six lectures on "Heat with its application to Domestic Economy, Manufactures, Inland Transport, etc." He was Professor of Natural Philosophy and Astronomy at London University, and edited Lardner's Cabinet Encyclopædia in 133 volumes; a publication to be found in most public reference libraries of the period. He also lectured the following year on "Astronomy." Four lectures on Botany were also delivered by Professor Burnett, Professor of Botany at King's College, London.

In 1837 Mr. Edward Smith, of Fir Vale, one of the original Proprietors of the Society and an active member, read a paper

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on the subject of “Joint Stock Banks.” The movement in favour of Joint Stock Banking, in place of the old system of private banks, several of which had recently failed, was gaining ground throughout the country. Under an Act passed in 1826 the first Joint Stock Bank in Sheffield, the ‘Sheffield Banking Company,’ had been opened in 1831, and Mr. Edward Smith was one of its founders and most active promoters. He was a Quaker and prominent in every local philanthropic movement. He is described in Mr. J. D. Leader’s paper on the “Story of our Society for half a century,” “in his brown coat and broad-brimmed hat,” as “tall, venerable, with grey hair and large but finely cut features—a man with whom no one would presume to take a liberty, yet possessing a kind and generous heart beneath a sedate and rather cold manner.”

Mr. Hall Overend, in his earlier days, had formed a large collection of Specimens of Anatomy, Human and Comparative, and of Natural History, which he had housed in a Museum, built for the purpose at the back of his house in Church Street. These he lectured upon to his pupils, of whom he had a great number, before a Medical School was established. He had continued to add to his collections up to the time of his death. His family presented that portion of these collections which related to Natural History and Comparative Anatomy, after his demise, to the Literary and Philosophical Society’s Museum; and this gift is acknowledged in the Council’s Report for 1837. The other contents of Mr. Overend’s Museum were presented to the Sheffield General Infirmary, whence in recent years some of them were transferred to the Anatomical Museum at the University.

In 1838 and 1839 courses of lectures continued to be given by eminent Professors of repute on Organic Chemistry, Geology, and Comparative Anatomy.

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There was an appeal in the Report for the latter year to Members of the Society interested in local manufactures to give the Society the benefit of their knowledge and experience in their own particular field of work, and not to leave the preparation of Monthly Papers so exclusively to the professional gentlemen of the district; an appeal not very likely to receive much response, owing to the old fear of disclosing trade secrets.

On Feb. 7th 1839, Dr. G. Calvert Holland read a paper entitled "Reflections on the abuse and injurious effects of Medical Charitable Institutions," which was responded to, the following April, by a paper by Dr. Favell on "Medical Charities."

It was in 1839 that Daguerre, a French artist, made public the result of his researches in fixing portraits and views upon a metal plate by the aid of light and a camera, the first step in the direction of modern photography. In the Annual Report of the Society for 1843 mention is made of a paper read by Mr. William Lucas on "the Daguerreotype," illustrated by Mr. Chadburn, a member of the Society who has been previously referred to, "who kindly exhibited all the practical details of the operation of taking portraits and views by the agency of light."

In the same Report special mention is made of four lectures on "English Vocal Harmony," by Mr. Edward Taylor, "the celebrated Gresham Professor of Music," with musical illustrations; the Master Cutler allowing the Society the use of the Cutlers' Hall for these lectures.

The Concert Hall at the Surrey Street Music Hall had become increasingly difficult to obtain, on account of its being constantly engaged for concerts and other public entertainments. This is a frequent cause of complaint in the Minutes,

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accompanied by reiterated regrets at the inability of the Society to raise the necessary funds for a building of their own. These "Concert Lectures," as the Report styles them, we are informed "attracted large audiences and increased our current list of Annual Subscribers almost beyond precedent." They seem to have constituted a new departure at the time, and they were the forerunners of many highly successful lectures with musical illustrations, culminating in those given in recent times by Sir Henry Wood, Sir Hubert Parry, and Sir Frederick Bridge.

At a general meeting in 1844 a communication was read from Audubon, the great American Ornithologist, to Mr. Heppenstall, "giving an account of his expedition in the district west of the Missouri and Mississippi, and bordering on the Oregon territory." Audubon was an intimate personal friend of Mr. John Heppenstall, one of the Proprietors and prominent members of the Society. The Society numbered amongst its Corresponding and Honorary Members many very eminent men. Dr. Frank Buckland, the well-known naturalist who visited Sheffield and lectured here, was one of the Corresponding Members of the Society; and Faraday and Liebig were both elected Honorary Members.

Henry Clifton Sorby was elected a Proprietor of the Society on Dec. 4th 1846. He read his first paper on Aug. 6th 1847 on "The functions of the valleys, river action and alluvial deposits in this neighbourhood"; a second paper on Oct. 1st on "Recent discoveries of Baron Liebig in Physiological and Organic Chemistry"; and yet a third within the year on Dec. 3rd 1847, on "Alluvial deposits" again.

Another course of musical lectures, eight in number, was given in 1846 by Sir Henry Bishop on "The origin and progress of the Lyric Drama, and on other secular music of the

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17th and 18th centuries," illustrated by vocal and instrumental music. Again it is recorded how much these lectures increased the popularity of the Society. The President, Mr. James Yates, F.R.S., who resided at Norton Hall, entertained Sir Henry Bishop during his visit, and the Council in their minutes record having enjoyed the hospitality of their President at Norton to meet Sir Henry. Mr. Yates, a little later, invited the whole of the Proprietors and some of the neighbouring gentry to a 'Conversazione' at Norton.

During the year 1847 the Council again enjoyed the hospitality of the President at Norton Hall, to meet the celebrated traveller, Dr. Wolff, who had come down to lecture to the Society on his travels in the East.

The Council were also entertained by the Vice-President, Mr. Richard Solly, at a 'Conversazione' at his house, to meet Dr. William Carpenter, Fullerian Professor of Physiology in the Royal Institution, who was delivering a course of six lectures on "The Microscope and its revelations." They were particularly gratified on this occasion by the opportunity afforded them of examining objects through his powerful Achromatic Microscope, the exhibition of which was not practicable to a large mixed audience in a public lecture room. Mr. Richard Solly, who succeeded Mr. James Yates as President in 1848, lived for a time at Field Head, Sheffield, but left Sheffield later and lived abroad, dying in 1868 at Valparaiso, in South America. He was the great grandson of Anne Hollis, the granddaughter of Thomas Hollis, the original founder of the local charity bearing his name. She married Richard Solly, of London, cutler. Mr. Richard Solly, the President, was a Trustee of Hollis Hospital. Solly Street in Sheffield is named after the family.

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Dr. Carpenter was followed in 1848 by another eminent scientist, Edwin Lankester, M.D., F.R.S., who delivered a course of four lectures on "The Natural History of Plants yielding food"; and another course of lectures in 1851 on "Plants and vegetable substances used in the arts and manufactures."

In the Report for the year 1849 abstracts of the papers read at the monthly meetings first appear, and the publication of these abstracts has continued ever since. In that year Mr. James Haywood* read a paper on "The action of water on Iron, Lead, and other metals used in the construction of pipes and cisterns." In the case of lead he recommended the addition of 'Gypsum' to the water, in the proportion of 3 or 4 grains per gallon to neutralize this action. A similar treatment of the water at its source is now used in connection with the Redmires supply, as the result of an enquiry held in Sheffield in 1890, owing to the prevalence then of lead poisoning from water obtained from this section of the town's water supply. In 1888 Mr. A. H. Allen, the Public Analyst, and a prominent member of the Society, read a very able paper on "The action of the Sheffield Water on Lead," suggesting similar treatment.

In 1849 Mr. H. Clifton Sorby became one of the Secretaries of the Society, a position which he held at intervals down to his death in 1908. He was a most prolific contributor to the work of the Society; taking part in discussions in all matters brought before its meetings, and frequently reading papers which embodied his own original research work. He was a regular attendant at the Annual Meetings of the British

*A most admirable Report on "The Sanitary Condition of the Borough of Sheffield" was presented, by request, to the Health Committee of the Town Council in 1847, by Mr. James Haywood, "Professional Chemist," and Mr. William Lee, C.E. Both were members of the Literary and Philosophical Society, the latter holding the office of Hon. Secretary from 1845 to 1850. The Report was far in advance of the times, and contained suggestions of the utmost value and importance; anticipating many sanitary measures which have only been carried out in recent times, and some which are still desirable.

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Association, and each year he gave the Society an account of the principal papers and discussions which had come under his notice at the Association meetings. Amongst the papers he read at this time, bearing on his own individual research, were: a paper on "The Microscopical Structure of British Calcareous Rocks," a paper on "Determining by mathematical calculation the form of the ultimate atoms of crystalline substances, from a comparison of the Specific Gravities and other properties." He subsequently gave an account of his own researches on "The formation and structure of granitic rocks."

An interesting exhibit at a meeting of the Society in 1852 was a volume of the works of Galen, a Greek Physician who wrote on Medical Subjects in the first century of the Christian era, which contained the autograph of Rabelais on the title page. This volume was the property of the Infirmary, and was shown by Dr. Joseph Law. It formed part of a gift of books to the Infirmary Library in 1807 by the first Lord Wharncliffe, and had once belonged to Alexander Cooke, M.D., of Ripon, of the family of Cooke, of Wheatley, near Doncaster, whose autograph it also contained. Investigation subsequently proved that the autograph of Rabelais was genuine. He was for a time a student of Medicine. These volumes are now in the University Library.

In 1855 the Council were endeavouring to secure the services of Mr. Ruskin and Mr. Thackeray as lecturers. After a delay of more than a month, not very unusual in Mr. Ruskin's correspondence, as the Sheffield Corporation in later years experienced, Mr. Ruskin wrote declining, owing to his engagements in literary work. Mr. Thackeray postponed his visit to Sheffield as he was on the point of visiting America; but in 1857 he lectured to the Society on "The Four Georges." For these four lectures he received a cheque for one hundred

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guineas, the largest sum paid for lectures in the records of the Society.

In 1858 communications were again opened with Mr. Ruskin, but without success. Charles Kingsley and Charles Dickens were also invited to lecture; the latter replied that he never read papers before Societies except on his own account. Sir William Sterndale Bennett, a Sheffield born man, and then Professor of Music at Cambridge, lectured before the Society in 1859, delivering two lectures, on "The visits of illustrious Foreign Musicians to England," and on "The general prospect of Music in England"; both with vocal and instrumental illustrations.

The Rev. Samuel Earnshaw, M.A., was for many years one of the most active supporters of the Society. His earlier career was indeed a remarkable one. Of humble parentage, his mother must have been possessed of considerable ability, for she had herself taught her son at home so well that when he was sent to the National School in Carver Street in 1813, though then only in his eighth year, he was at once set to teach the younger lads, whilst receiving instruction himself in more advanced subjects. Dr. Sutton, the vicar of Sheffield at the time, was so proud of Earnshaw's acquirements, that he used to bring friends who were visiting him, interested in education, to the School, saying "Come and see my clever boy." The boy, though closely questioned on mathematical subjects, was equal to the occasion, being already a capable mathematician. In 1827 he entered the University of Cambridge, soon gaining a Scholarship; and in 1831 he graduated as Senior Wrangler and First Smith's Prizeman. Mr. Earnshaw remained at the University for a period of sixteen years as a tutor and coach. In the latter capacity he earned over £2,000 a year, a large sum for those days. The strain, however, was too great for



REV. SAMUEL EARNSHAW, M.A.,
President in 1860, 1873, 1874, and 1884.

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his health, and he returned to Sheffield in 1847 to become Assistant Minister at the Parish Church on the presentation of the Church Burgesses. He was ultimately the last of the Assistant Ministers, that ancient foundation being abolished by an Act of Parliament in 1854. Whilst at Cambridge he published treatises on "Dynamics" and "Statics," and contributed papers to the 'Cambridge Philosophical Society,' the 'Royal Society,' and other learned Societies. Amongst his subjects were "The Molecular forces of the Luminiferous Ether," "The mathematical theory of sound," &c. In the Literary and Philosophical Society's Report for 1858, he is specially thanked for his paper containing an account of "his important discovery relating to the theoretical determination of the velocity of sound"; a subject he had brought before the notice of the British Association at their meeting at Leeds, and which might be "followed by practical results of the greatest value." This appears to have been his first paper read before the Society. He read many papers subsequently; amongst them the following: "On the Theory of Heat"; "What Geometry says to Evolution," and "The Arithmetic of Infinities." In educational matters in Sheffield, Mr. Earnshaw took the greatest interest. He introduced the 'Cambridge Local Examination' system into Sheffield, and for many years acted as Local Secretary. He was foremost in all the steps which led up to the foundation of Firth College, and succeeded the founder, Mr. Mark Firth, as President of the College; a position he relinquished at the end of a year, owing to indifferent health, and in which he was followed by Dr. Sorby. A Scholarship, bearing his name, was instituted in his honour. He died on Dec. 6th 1888, aged 83.

In 1859 lectures were delivered by Philip Henry Gosse, F.R.S., on "Contrivances connected with Growth in the lower animals," and on "Contrivances connected with Protection and Defence."

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In 1860 the veteran traveller and missionary, the Rev. Dr. Wolff, again visited Sheffield shortly before his death, and lectured on "The present condition of Syria."

In 1861 the Report makes special mention of four lectures on "The World before the Flood," by Professor Richard Owen, F.R.S. His distinguished position in the scientific world, and his prominence in the Evolution Controversy, attracted large audiences, and his lectures were highly appreciated.

Spectrum Analysis was one of the numerous subjects the knowledge of which Dr. Clifton Sorby materially advanced by his own researches; and in 1866 he read a paper on it before the Society, and exhibited a new form of instrument in connection with it which he had designed. In 1873 he drew the attention of the Society to a recent local discovery of some importance: "The remains of a fossil forest in the coal measures at Wadsley." Some of these fossil trees were exposed *in situ* within the grounds of the Asylum there, then in course of erection, and they may still be seen protected by huts built over them. More recently similar trees were discovered in the course of excavation on the railway near Wincobank. In 1877 Dr. Sorby's lecture on "The structure and origin of meteorites and meteoric iron," another subject in which he had been distinguished for original work, attracted much attention. In 1872 the Council had congratulated him, in their Report, on being the recipient of the first Boerhaave Gold Medal, awarded by the Dutch Royal Society for his researches in Geology. He had also been awarded the Gold Medal of our own Royal Society.

Mr. Henry Seebohm was another lecturer, with local connections, who was always welcome to the Literary and Philosophical audiences. He was a great traveller and ornithologist, and his lectures were invariably interesting and drew

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crowded houses. A particularly interesting one in 1875 is mentioned in the Annual Report: "A journey to Siberia, in Europe, with some information respecting the Ornithology and Ethnology of the great River Petchora."

Dr. Henry Bradley, the eminent philologist and Joint Editor of the Oxford English Dictionary, the author of many articles in the *Academy*, *Athenæum*, and other papers, as well as a contributor to the Dictionary of National Biography, Encyclopædia Britannica, Chamber's Encyclopædia, &c., was a reader of papers at the Society at this period. He was a Sheffield man, and then resided in Sheffield. The three papers mentioned in the Reports were upon: "English Place Names"; "Names, Nicknames and Surnames"; and "Ptolemy's Geography of the British Isles."

Other distinguished lecturers of this period who visited Sheffield under the Society's auspices were: Professor Rolleston, M.D., F.R.S., Professor of Anatomy and Physiology at Oxford, who lectured upon "Animals mentioned by ancient writers—sacred and profane"; Professor Boyd Dawkins F.R.S. on "Cave Hunting"; the Rev. J. G. Wood, a very popular naturalist whose books were a source of enjoyment and instruction to multitudes of general readers, who delivered lectures on "Unappreciated Insects," "Spiders," "Ant life," "Pond and Stream," &c.

The Rev. Canon Ainger, Master of the Temple and Canon of Bristol, a former master of the Collegiate School under the Rev. G. B. Atkinson, was always a welcome lecturer at the meetings of the Society on literary subjects. He had a peculiar charm of voice and style, dramatic force, and great literary gifts. Some of his subjects were "The Poetic Revival of the last century," "Dean Swift," "Sir John Falstaff," "Thomas Hood," "True and false humour in literature,"

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“Shakespeare’s Ethics,” &c. He was well known in the literary world for his scholarly criticism, and his sympathetic editing of the “Letters of Charles Lamb.”

A very popular feature was introduced into the Lecture Programme about 1880, in the form of Dramatic Recitals, which have always proved attractive, notwithstanding the objections to “stage effect” and dramatic rendering of poetical quotations raised by the Council in 1833, to which I have previously referred. For several years in succession Mr. Brandram gave recitations of a whole play of Shakespeare, and for three years the recitation was preceded in the course by a lecture on the same play by Professor Henry Morley. Mr. Brandram was succeeded by Mr. Ernest Denny as a reciter, who well maintained the attractiveness of this form of entertainment for the ‘Lit and Phil’ audiences; as did Mr. Alexander Watson later on.

The Lectures on musical subjects, with vocal and instrumental illustrations, I have before alluded to as attracting large audiences and increasing the number of subscribers to the Society. In the “eighties” of the last century Herr Ernst Pauer delivered one of these musical lectures annually. The Rev. H. R. Haweis, M.A., gave a lecture in 1885, though apparently without musical illustrations, on “Music, Emotion, and Thought.” He was a popular author of the time on musical subjects. Sir Frederick Bridge, Mus.Doc., &c., Professor of Music at London University and Organist at Westminster Abbey, known as “Westminster Bridge” to distinguish him from his brother “Chester Bridge,” the organist at Chester Cathedral, lectured to the Society in 1892. He again lectured, on “Pepys Diary and its musical notes,” with vocal and piano illustrations, in 1903. In 1901 Sir Hubert

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Parry, Mus.Doc., &c., lectured on “Characteristic experiments in early music,” with choral illustrations.

When, in 1904, the Council of the Society decided not to hold the usual Conversazione, they were able to announce as an alternative that they had secured the consent of Sir Henry Wood, then conductor of the Sheffield Musical Festivals, to deliver a musical lecture on “Wind Instruments,” illustrated by the ‘Queen’s Hall Wind Quintet.’ Encouraged by the great success which attended this performance, another lecture by Sir Henry Wood on “Brass Wind Instruments of the Modern Orchestra,” with illustrations by the ‘Queen’s Hall Orchestra,’ was delivered in place of the Conversazione in 1905.

During the last twenty years of the nineteenth century great activity was manifested in the field of science by members of the Society. The Natural Science Section was in ‘full swing’; Firth College, and subsequently University College, contributed materially to its success in the active co-operation of members of the staff and in scientific material. Dr. Sorby and Mr. Thomas Andrews have been mentioned specially in connection with the foundation of the Section, and Professor Hicks also as an active supporter. There were others who took a special interest in this Section, but the space at my disposal does not permit me to include further reference to the work of the Section, which was often of a highly technical character. Amongst them, however, was one whose early death in 1886 was a distinct loss to science, and deprived the Society of one of its most active younger members. Mr. J. Spear Parker had contributed very valuable papers on scientific subjects, and had been a member of the Council and a Vice-President.

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The Rev. Dr. Dallinger, F.R.S., Governor of Wesley College, was a very popular public lecturer upon scientific subjects and an eminent microscopist. In 1882 he lectured before the Society on "Microscopical Research in reference to Epidemic Diseases," and again later on "The Microscope."

Dr. Sorby continued, throughout his connection with the Society, to lecture and read papers on scientific subjects, embracing almost every department of science, and occasionally giving proof of his extraordinary versatility by incursions into Archæology. In 1897 he completed the Jubilee of his connection with the Council of the Literary and Philosophical Society, and to commemorate the event was elected, for the sixth time, President of the Society. On the occasion of the Conversazione in this year he gave, as his Address, a retrospect of his fifty years work, and exhibited a large number of drawings, diagrams, and slides, illustrating the various subjects he had dealt with in former lectures and papers.

In the last thirty or forty years the members of the Society have had the opportunity of seeing and hearing many well-known writers and workers, literary and scientific, engaged by the Council to deliver lectures. Sir Robert Ball, LL.D., F.R.S., the Astronomer Royal of Ireland, was a popular lecturer in Sheffield. He lectured in 1882 on "The coming transit of Venus," in 1885 on "The glories of the midnight sky," and in 1897 on "Recent researches about the Sun." Sir Francis Darwin, F.R.S., lectured on "Some hardships in the life of plants"; Professor Max Müller on "The Sacred Books of the East"; Dr. Bowdler Sharpe, of the British Museum, on "Bird Life"; Mr. Richard Kearton on "Wild Life at home"; and on many subsequent occasions on subjects of a similar character, illustrated by lantern slides from the

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wonderful photographs of ‘wild life’ he had succeeded in obtaining at home and abroad. On Art Mr. H. Stacy Marks lectured on “Some records of my artist life and work,” and Sir Hubert von Herkomer on “The Critical Faculty.” The members of the *Punch* Staff have from time to time delighted Sheffield audiences, under the auspices of the Society, in connection with their particular functions as satirists and humorists. Mr. Harry Furniss on “Portraiture, Past and Present”; Mr. H. W. Lucy (Toby, M.P.) on “The Parliaments of the Queen”: Mr. George du Maurier on “Social Pictorial Satire”; Mr. E. T. Reed on “Caricature in and out of Parliament”; Mr. Raven Hill on “A Humorist at large”; and Sir Francis Burnand, the Editor, on “Nearly fifty years with *Punch*.”

Mr. Frederick Villiers, the celebrated War Correspondent, lectured on “War on a white sheet”; Dr. A. Conan Doyle on “Facts about fiction.” Dr. Fridtjof Nansen gave an account of “The first crossing of Greenland”; Mr. E. Whymper of his “Ascent of the Andes.” Miss Mary Kingsley lectured on “West Africa”; Sir Harry Johnston on “The Uganda Protectorate”; and Major Sir Ronald Ross, F.R.S., on “Mosquitoes and Malaria.”

Mr. F. C. Selous lectured on “Tales of Travel and Sport”; Professor Flinders Petrie, F.R.S., on “Excavations in Egypt”; Professor Richard Caton, M.D., F.R.C.P., on “The recently discovered Health Temple of Cos”; Sir James Crichton Browne, F.R.S., on “Brain Pressure,” and on “Hand Training”; and Mr. D’Arcy Power, F.R.C.S., on “The Meals of our Ancestors.”

The Rev. Dr. Stubbs, Dean of Ely, lectured on “James Russell Lowell”; and the Rev. Dr. Hensley Henson, Dean of Durham, on “Westminster Abbey.” Alfred Austin, Poet

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Laureate, lectured on “The feminine note in English Poetry”; the Rev. A. Boyd Carpenter on “Tennyson’s Gareth and Lynette,” and on “The Coming of Arthur,” and on other “Idylls of the King.” Ian Maclaren gave readings from his work “The Bonnie Briar Bush,” and lectured on other subjects; and Mr. Israel Zangwill on “The Ghetto.”

Mr. J. D. Thompson gave demonstrations in Wireless Telegraphy at the Conversazione in 1898; Sir W. H. Preece, F.R.S., lectured on “Ætheric Telegraphy” in 1900; Sir W. H. White, F.R.S., Constructor to the Admiralty, on “Modern Naval Developments,” in 1905; Professor H. A. Miers, D.Sc., F.R.S., on “The Growth of Crystals,” in 1908; and in 1909 Professor W. A. Herdman, D.Sc., F.R.S., an ex-President of the British Association and a leading authority on Marine Biology, lectured on “Pearls and Pearl Fishing.” It is unnecessary for me to continue the list to the present day, as the more recent lectures will be well within the recollection of my readers.

In attempting to deal with the very large number of papers read at the Monthly Meetings, contributed for the most part by members of the Society, I feel that I am on delicate ground and that my task is an invidious one. It is only possible to make a very inadequate selection with the view of demonstrating the wide range of subjects dealt with.

Bearing upon local history, we have Mr. John Holland on “Brief reminiscences of deceased Presidents of the Society,” and on “Our old Churchyard”; Mr. David Parkes on “Sheffield Dialect,” “Personal recollections of Sheffield and some Sheffield Worthies,” and “Presidents of the Literary and Philosophical Society from 1823 to 1850”; Mr. J. D. Leader on “Sheffield Castle and Manor Lodge in 1582,” “Samuel Bailey as a Poet,” “Literature and Philosophy in Sheffield, the story of our Society

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for half a Century," and "Campodunum, or the dawning of history in the Don Valley." Mr. Leader also read a paper by Sir Charles Harding Firth, LL.D., now Professor of History at Oxford and formerly on the Staff of Firth College, entitled "Notes on Sheffield History," with supplementary notes of his own. Mr. R. E. Leader read a paper on "Alien Refugee Cutlery Traditions," and also delivered a special lecture on "Highways and Byeways of old Sheffield." Alderman William Smith read papers on "Derbyshire," on "Ebenezer Elliott and his writings," and on "Characteristics of some leading inhabitants of Sheffield at the close of the 18th Century." Mr. Benjamin Bagshawe, whose knowledge of local history was extensive, and who took an active part in the affairs of the Society, does not appear to have read many papers; two bearing on local matters were: a paper on "Samuel Bailey," and one on "Prehistoric Man in Derbyshire." Mr. C. Belk read a paper on "The Cutlers' Company"; Mr. Arnold Watson on "The Sheffield Assay Office"; Mr. J. R. Wigfull on "The Parish Church of Sheffield"; and Mr. Charles Green on "The Sculptor's Art," as illustrated by specimens in the possession of the Society. Mr. J. H. Barber, for many years the Managing Director and subsequently Chairman of the Sheffield Banking Company, gave his "Reminiscences of Banking."

Mr. B. D. Wrangham was an Egyptologist of some note, and read numerous papers, on: "Ancient Egypt," "Egyptian Tombs of the Ancient and Middle Empires," "Palmyra or Tadmor in the Wilderness," &c. He also read papers on various Astronomical subjects.

The Rev. C. Clementson, a former President, read a paper on "The History and Philosophy of Buddhism"; Mr. James Wilson, about the same period, 1883, read one on "Spiritualism and the Theosophists," and, dealing with the occult, the Rev.

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C. A. Goodhart read a paper in 1885 on "Thought transference and the present position of the Ghost Question."

The Rev. J. J. Dyson, M.A., the last Principal of the Collegiate School, read a paper on "Sophocles and Greek Tragedy." Three members of the University Staff contributed papers upon 'Classical' subjects; Professor W. C. Summers, M.A., on "Character Sketches in Greek and Latin Literature," Professor E. S. Forster, M.A., on "Praxiteles and his Sculpture," and A. H. Thomas, M.A., on "Diana of the Ephesians." Two Vice-Chancellors of the University have read papers; Sir Charles Eliot, K.C.M.G., on "Burma and its people," and on "Cambodja and its ancient cities"; the Right Hon. H. A. L. Fisher, P.C., M.A., LL.D., on "Napoleon's Idea of England." Professor Leahy, M.A., whose recent departure from the University and from Sheffield has deprived the Society of an active member of the Council and a Past President, read a paper on "Ancient Irish Literature." Professor Hicks, D.Sc., F.R.S., amongst his numerous scientific communications included papers on "Scientific Forecasts," and "What is the Ether?" Professor W. C. Williams, Professor of Chemistry, read a paper on "Alchemy"; Professor W. E. S. Turner, D.Sc., on "Modern Glass Making." The Rev. V. W. Pearson, B.A., late Head of the Training College and formerly of Wesley College, an active member of the Society and a Past President, who has recently left Sheffield, read a very important paper on "Vocational Education." Professor G. C. Moore Smith, M.A., Litt.D., a member of the Council and a Past President, in 1901 read the 15th Century Morality Play "Everyman," each scene being shown by the lantern as it had been recently given by the 'Elizabethan Stage Society.'

On Literary subjects, Music, and Art, the following papers may be noted: Mr. J. H. Doncaster on "Ancient and Modern

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Political Ideas and Systems," and also on "Pepys Diary"; Mr. J. H. Barber on "William Penn and his times"; the Rev. H. H. Oakley on "The Author's Bow" (a paper dealing with Prefaces and Dedications); the Rev. T. W. Holmes on "Wisdom in Cap and Bells"; Mr. W. T. Freemantle on "Elizabeth Eleanor Siddal (Mrs. Dante Gabriel Rossetti)"; Mr. R. H. Dunbar on "George Macdonald and his country"; the Rev. Henry Oyston on "George Meredith, the Poet, Novelist, and Man"; Mrs. T. P. Lockwood on "Provence and the Poet Mistral"; and Mr. R. H. Minshall on "Epigrams and Epitaphs." Canon Julian, D.D., read a paper on "The rise and decline of Carols and Carol Singing," and one on "The influence of Sheffield upon the Hymnology of the 19th Century"; Mr. T. W. Hanforth, Mus.Bac., on "The Music of the Bible"; Mrs. Basil Ross on "Modern Russian Music," with musical and vocal illustrations; and Miss E. Rowland on "French Canadian Folk-Songs," with vocal illustrations. Mr. A. C. C. Jahn, Head Master of the Sheffield School of Art, read a paper on "Japanese Art"; and Mr. Gill Parker, of the Ruskin Museum, on "Early Drawings by Ruskin."

Reference has been made to Mr. H. Seebohm's travels, and his papers upon Ornithology. In 1873 he read a paper on his experiences "Among the Greeks and Brigands at Athens, the Parnassus, and Missolonghi." Mr. F. Brittain read papers founded on his experiences in travel, three papers on Spain, and one entitled "Among the Moors, a trip to Tangiers." He also read a paper on "The Romance Languages." Our present Secretaries have contributed papers; Mr. T. Skelton Cole on "The Castles of the Loire," and on "The Harvest of the Eye"; Mr. T. P. Lockwood on "Paris 500 years ago" and on "Old New Zealand, the land of the Maoris."

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On subjects of Natural History a large number of papers have been read before the Society, but a few examples must suffice. Mr. E. Birks read papers: "Notes on the Flora of Sheffield and district," and "Shakespeare's knowledge of Plants and Flowers"; Professor Denny, of the University, on "Leaves and Leaf Structures," on "Animal Dwellings, some facts about instinct," and on "A study in feet, a chapter of evolution"; Professor Patten, Professor of Anatomy, has read numerous papers, several upon Ornithological subjects, of which he has made a special study. Mr. Arnold T. Watson has read papers on "Studies of the habits of tube-building worms," and "How some Sea Animals build and defend their homes."

Other scientific papers have been read by: Mr. R. J. Pye-Smith on "Vis Medicatrix Naturæ—the basis of the healing art"; by Mr. Leonard Doncaster on "Heredity and Sex"; by Dr. Simeon Snell on "The perception of colours, and the mistakes and dangers of the Colour Blind," he also read a paper on "Doctors as men of letters"; by Professor Addison, now the Right Hon. Christopher Addison, P.C., on "The Brain and sense of Hearing," and on "Memory of Words and Speech." Professor J. B. Leathes, F.R.S., the present Professor of Physiology at the University, read a paper on "Our Food."

Of papers on subjects connected with the recent war may be noted one by Professor J. B. Black, M.A., Professor of Modern History, on "The early days of the German Revolution," and by Sir William Ellis, G.B.E., on "The effects of the War in Eastern Europe." He previously read a paper on "Some Notes on the British Navy."

The Literary and Philosophical Society, when it was founded in 1822, and for many subsequent years, was rightly regarded as an important centre of educational influence and

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culture. Its founders were men who were in earnest in their endeavour to improve their own minds and those of their neighbours; and the courses of lectures arranged, and the interest taken in the Museum and Library, were evidence of this desire to make a practical use of the Society in the pursuit of knowledge of all kinds.

In later years the 'Cambridge Local' movement, the foundation of 'Firth College' and the 'Technical School,' culminating in a grant of a University Charter to Sheffield, with the development of public education under Mr. Forster's Education Act of 1870, and the formation of so many Societies for the study of special subjects, have deprived the Society of its leading position in the local community as an educational factor in social life. It does, however, as I have endeavoured to show from its records, continue to provide its members with opportunities of hearing lectures, of a popular kind, from leading exponents of the latest knowledge in the fields of literature, science, and art; thus stimulating a taste for reading and study in those who are inclined to take advantage of such opportunities. The attendance at its lectures and meetings is an answer to those who suggest that the Society has outlived its usefulness on its present lines. Whilst welcoming suggestions for improvements in its administration, the Council desire to maintain the fundamental ideals from which the Society derived its title.

'IN CONCLUSION.'



XCEPT for very special reasons, what usually goes by the name of 'The Preface' would appear more appropriate to the conclusion than the commencement of a book, since it is the last part to be written. If read at all, the Preface has sometimes the effect of diminishing rather than increasing the interest in the author and his work. It has been known to give the story away at the outset, or by its prolixity disincline the reader to make further trial of the production. It may be that the author is so modest, or so conscious of his defects, that he feels he ought to propitiate his readers in advance by an apologetic preface; but this may have the effect of deterring them, since if the author has so poor an opinion of his own production the potential reader may lay it aside for lack of encouragement. If towards the close of the volume its perusal has given satisfaction, the reader will not omit the final remarks of the author; and if he disapproves of the book he may wish to hear what the rascal who wrote it has to say for himself. It is surely better for the author to first submit his case to the court as it stands, and only to acknowledge its deficiencies and plead 'extenuating circumstances' when the jury have heard it.

Such 'extenuating circumstances' in the present case relate to time and space. To attempt the story of the Literary and Philosophical Society's century of existence is no light matter. To travel over the pages of two sets of Minute Books and volumes of Reports, covering a hundred years, takes time; and when, from a mass of notes, one begins to attempt the task of selection and arrangement one is confronted with the difficulties of compression into a limited space.



ARNOLD T. WATSON, F.L.S.,

President in 1889 and 1913;
Hon. Treasurer since 1890.

“*In Conclusion.*”

In the time and space at my disposal, I have found it impossible to recognize by a personal reference the work of many of those who gave their time and talents freely to the Society; and many papers of interest, which deserve special mention, have had to be omitted for the same reason. I therefore claim the indulgence of those who are disposed to be critical in the matter of such defects and omissions as I have indicated.

Without the assistance of the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Arnold Watson, the ‘*Doyen*’ of the Society, who knows far more about its history and affairs than anyone else, I should have fared worse. His help was volunteered and gratefully accepted, and I take this opportunity of thanking him for all his kindness. His services to the Society extend back well over forty years. He was elected on the Council in 1879, and became Hon. Treasurer on January 7th, 1890. He has acted in that capacity ever since, and his services are much appreciated by the Council and Members of the Society.

In connection with the list of Busts and Portraits in the Society’s possession, which is given in the Appendix, in addition to information supplied to me by Mr. Watson I am much indebted to Mr. Bernard H. Hoole, who has compiled an account of such local collections which he very kindly permitted me to make use of. A few facts were also gleaned from the late Mr. Charles Green’s paper, printed in the Annual Report for 1912.

The recent death of Mr. R. E. Leader, whose intimate knowledge of Sheffield history and families was unique, deprived me of a source of information which, from my previous experience, I feel sure would have been freely and courteously placed at my disposal. His books and papers upon Sheffield in the past, a mine of local information, have been made use of;

“ In Conclusion.”

as has also that useful annual summary of local events (from A.D. 200 to 1908 !), the ‘Sheffield Local Register.’

I have previously alluded to an “assumption of the superiority of their native place” as an alleged characteristic of Sheffielders by descent. I would prefer to describe it as an inherited sense of loyalty to their native place. This certainly is still in evidence amongst a section of the inhabitants, as the popularity of lectures upon “Old Sheffield” demonstrates; and this section is well represented in the Literary and Philosophical Society, and in the recently formed Hunter Society. In the ‘Jackson’ and other collections of deeds and manuscripts relating to Sheffield history, the City Reference Library has in recent times acquired a valuable addition to its local archives. Sheffield is becoming rich in such material; and local institutions which have attained the dignity of a century’s existence, or even less, have lately shown a laudable desire to record their history in book form. The Council of the Literary and Philosophical Society did me the honour of entrusting me with the preparation of this ‘Centenary Retrospect,’ for which I desire to thank them, as well as for the facilities afforded me in carrying out their wishes. The completion of a century in the history of a society is of itself some justification of the society’s existence; and to be still doing good work and carrying out, though to a modified extent, the intentions of its founders is a proof of their prescience. It is fit and proper that we should not only honour their memory to-day, but seek to preserve and extend the usefulness of the Society which they created a hundred years ago.

APPENDIX.

- (A) Busts and Portraits in the possession
of the Society.
- (B) Honorary Officers of the Society,
1822 to 1922.
- (C) A Chronological Table.

APPENDIX.

(A) BUSTS AND PORTRAITS IN THE POSSESSION OF THE SOCIETY.

BUSTS AND MEDALLIONS.

ON THE STAIRCASE AT THE LITERARY AND PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY'S ROOMS.

Homer. Plaster Bust. The original marble is said to be in the British Museum.

Byron. Plaster Bust. Sculptor unknown.

George IV. Plaster Bust. Sculptor unknown.

James Montgomery. Bronze Medallion by William Ellis. Said to be the design for a "Montgomery Medal." The Medallion was cast at Roscoe Place. The original metal casting hangs in the entrance hall to the Mappin Art Gallery.

IN THE LIBRARY.

Sir Francis Chantrey, R.A. Plaster Bust by J. T. Smith. The sculptor was one of Chantrey's carvers. The Bust was modelled in 1824, and is said to be an excellent likeness. It was purchased from Mr. J. Dyson for the Society, Dec. 6th 1910, and is mentioned in the Minutes in 1911. The original marble is in the entrance hall of the Royal Academy, Burlington House. (A bust of Sir Francis Chantrey was presented to the Society by Mr. Morton in 1843, but is now missing.)

Appendix.

Ebenezer Elliott. Plaster Bust by Nevill Northey Burnard, the sculptor of the figure on Elliott's monument now in Weston Park. This Bust was also purchased from Mr. J. Dyson on Dec. 6th 1910, and is mentioned in the Minutes in 1911.

(A bust of Ebenezer Elliott was presented to the Society by Mr. Ward in 1842, but is now missing.)

Sir Arnold Knight, M.D. Plaster Bust by Edwin Smith. Purchased by the Society in 1882. This Bust is the original model.

James Montgomery. Plaster Bust by Edwin Smith. Purchased by the Society in 1882; the price paid to Edwin Smith by the Society for the two busts, of Sir Arnold Knight and James Montgomery, was five guineas (*vide* the Minutes). The Bust of Montgomery is the original model from which the marble bust in the Cutlers' Hall was taken. It was modelled in 1843.

Hall Overend. Marble Bust (the only marble bust in the possession of the Society) by Edward Law. This Bust was executed about 1831 for Mr. Overend's family, and was presented to the Society, in 1882, by Mr. Overend's son William Overend, Esq., Q.C. (*vide* the Minutes).

Allan Cunningham. Plaster Bust by Sir Francis Chantrey. Purchased by the Society in 1845 (*vide* the Minutes). The subject of the bust was a close friend of the sculptor and his manager in the studio. In the "National Dictionary of Biography" he is described as "a miscellaneous writer (1784-1842); the friend of Hogg, 'the Ettrick Shepherd,' and Secretary to Sir Francis Chantrey (1814-1841)."

Appendix.

Sir Walter Scott. Plaster Bust by Sir Francis Chantrey. This Bust came from the 'Sheffield Library' in 1907. The original marble bust was executed in 1820, and was considered to be one of Chantrey's masterpieces. It was presented by the sculptor to Sir Walter Scott, as "an heirloom to Abbotsford," on condition that Scott afforded him sittings for another bust later on. In 1827 Chantrey executed a replica of this bust for the Duke of Wellington, which is now at Apsley House; and it is said to be the only duplicate Chantrey ever made. Only forty-five casts were taken of this bust, though it was largely pirated abroad, and indifferent copies were put in circulation. Scott fulfilled his promise in 1828, when a second bust was executed by Chantrey, and sent to Sir Robert Peel at Drayton Manor.

Charles Sylvester. Plaster Bust by Sir Francis Chantrey. Purchased by the Society in 1831 for five guineas (*vide* the Minutes). This Bust was probably executed between 1804 and 1810.

Sir William Sterndale Bennett. Plaster Medallion by Theophilus Smith. Presented by Mr. W. T. Freemantle in 1920.

John Holland. Plaster Medallion by Theophilus Smith. Presented by Sir Samuel Roberts, Bart., M.P., in 1918. The Medallion bears the sculptor's name, and the date March 1872.

James Montgomery. Plaster Statuette, 25 inches high, by John Bell. Formerly the property of the late Mr. J. H. Brammall, it was presented to the Society, in 1921, by Miss Shrewsbury as executrix of the late Miss Brammall. The Statuette is a copy of the figure of Montgomery on his monument in the Sheffield General Cemetery. It is said that the sculptor copied the face from the bust by Edwin Smith before referred to.

Appendix.

PORTRAITS.
IN THE LIBRARY.

James Montgomery. Large Oil Painting by Thomas Barber of Derby. Owing to want of space to display this portrait to advantage in the present premises of the Society, it was loaned to the City Council in 1917, and now hangs in a corridor at the Town Hall. It was painted in 1824, when Montgomery was President, by subscription, and cost 150 guineas. The presentation of this portrait is not mentioned in the Minute Books or Reports of the Society, but the following entry occurs in that invaluable chronicle of local events, the 'Sheffield Local Register,' under date Sept. 1st 1824: "Mr. James Montgomery; his portrait painted by Mr. Barber of Derby, for the members of the Literary and Philosophical Society, placed in their hall." There is a Council Minute in 1868 of the loan of this portrait to "the National Exhibition of Works of Art at Leeds"; and again in 1893 it was loaned to the Corporation of Nottingham for an exhibition of Barber's paintings. Thomas Barber was a pupil of Sir Thomas Lawrence, and exhibited at the Royal Academy, between 1810 and 1829, thirteen portraits. One of these portraits was of Mrs. Siddons, in 1819. Barber was originally a native of Nottingham

Henry Clifton Sorby, LL.D., F.R.S. Large Oil Painting by Mrs. M. L. Waller. Painted by subscription to celebrate Dr. Sorby's completion of 50 years connection with the Society, and presented to the Society Nov. 1st 1898.

Samuel Bailey. Oil Painting, half length. Name of the artist unknown. Presented to the Society by Mr. Bailey's executors in pursuance of the terms of his will.

Appendix.

James Montgomery. Large Water Colour Painting by Richard Smith. Painted in 1852. Presented to the Society in 1918 by Sir Samuel Roberts, Bart., M.P.

Also a small Lithograph of the head of Montgomery. Lequeutre, lith.: Vincent Brooks, imp. This is described beneath as: "Facsimile of a photograph from life in the possession of William Ellis sculptor." (William Ellis was the sculptor of the Marble Bust of Montgomery at the Sheffield Royal Infirmary.)

Small Engraving, half length, of Montgomery. Woolnoth, sculpt: E. Westoby, del. Published 1st Nov. 1827, by Dean and Munday.

Simeon Snell, D.Sc., F.R.C.S.E. A Photographic Enlargement. Presented by the Council of the Society, after his death in 1909.

A Minute of Dec. 3rd 1841 directs that "**a Bust or Print of the late Mr. Bennet**" be purchased for the Museum. This was Mr. George Bennet previously referred to as having enriched the Museum and Library of the Society by gifts of Specimens and Books over a period of some years. He left Sheffield in 1821, before the foundation of the Society, and travelled abroad in connection with Missionary Work for many years. He was made an Hon. Member in 1838. There is no record of any such purchase being made, and no Bust or Print is in existence now in the possession of the Society.

In 1877 there is a Council Minute "that enquiries be made respecting the Portrait of Shakespeare"; and in the same year another Minute "that the Cartoon of Shakespeare be lent to Mr. Young for the Shakespeare Anniversary." No such Portrait or Cartoon is now in the possession of the Society; but an engraving of a painting, stated to be by William Poole, representing Shakespeare, "in the attitude of inspiration," seated on a rock apparently in mid-ocean, figures as the frontispiece of the "Proceedings of the Sheffield Shakespeare Club" printed in 1829. This may possibly be a representation of the missing "Cartoon."

(B) HONORARY OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY, 1822-1922.

(Vice-Presidents omitted).

PRESIDENTS.	HON. SECRETARIES.	TREASURERS.	HON. CURATORS.
1823 Arnold J. Knight, M.D.	Thomas Waterhouse Luke Palfreyman	Offley Shore	William Jackson
1824 James Montgomery	" "	" "	" "
1825 Rev. Nathaniel Phillips, D.D.	" "	" "	" "
1826 Samuel Bailey	" "	" "	" "
	Robert Younge (3rd Sec.)		
1827 James Montgomery	Luke Palfreyman Robert Younge	" "	" "
1828 Rev. H. H. Piper	" "	" "	" "
1829 T. Asline Ward	" "	" "	" "
1830 Samuel Bailey	" "	" "	" "
1831 " "	Luke Palfreyman Charles F. Favell, M.D.	" "	" "
1832 Corden Thompson, M.D.	" "	" "	" "
1833 James Montgomery	" "	" "	" "
1834 J. H. Abraham, F.L.S.	" "	" "	" "
1835 G. Calvert Holland, M.D.	R. J. Gainsford Charles Morton	" "	" "

Honorary Officers of the Society, 1822-1922—*continued.*

PRESIDENTS.	HON. SECRETARIES.	TREASURERS.	HON. CURATORS.
1836 H. P. Harwood, M.D.	Charles Morton	Offley Shore	William Jackson
1837 Rev. J. Blackburn	Charles F. Favell, M.D.	„ „ „	„ „ „
1838 Charles F. Favell, M.D.	T. R. Barker	Rev. W. R. Smith	„ „ „
1839 Rev. H. Farish, M.A.	Henry Boulbee	„ „ „	„ „ „
1840 Arnold J. Knight, M.D.	Henry Boulbee	„ „ „	„ „ „
1841 James Montgomery	William Lucas	„ „ „	„ „ „
1842 Right Hon. Earl Fitzwilliam	Henry Boulbee	„ „ „	„ „ „
1843 Edward Smith	John Heppenstall	„ „ „	„ „ „
1844 William Lucas	John Ward	„ „ „	„ „ „
1845 Rev. J. Manners	William Lee	„ „ „	„ „ „
1846 James Yates, F.R.S.	Thomas Chesman	„ „ „	„ „ „
1847 „ „ „	„ „ „	George Wilkinson	John Heppenstall
1848 Richard Solly	„ „ „	Samuel Mitchell	„ „ „

Honorary Officers of the Society, 1822-1922—*continued.*

PRESIDENTS.					
1849	James Ray	PRESIDENTS.	HON. SECRETARIES.	TREASURERS.	HON. CURATORS.
1850	William Jackson		William Lee	Samuel Mitchel	John Heppenstall
1851	Ferguson Branson, M.D.	"	"	"	Charles Elam, M.D.
1852	Henry Clifton Sorby, F.G.S.	"	John Heppenstall	"	
			Joseph Kirk	"	
1853	Samuel Bailey	"	"	"	
1854	Rev. Thomas Sale, D.D.	"	"	"	Rev. Thos. Hincks, B.A.
1855	Rev. Thomas Hincks, B.A.	"	Joseph Kirk	"	"
			C. J. Shearman, M.D.	"	C. E. Smith
1856	Samuel Mitchell	"	"	John Webster	"
1857	E. F. Sanderson	"	"	"	"
1858	Henry Jackson	"	Joseph Kirk	"	"
			William Baker, F.C.S.	"	
1859	E. Stirling Howard	"	William Baker, F.C.S.	"	
			Henry Clifton Sorby	"	
1860	Rev. Samuel Earnshaw, M.A.	"	"	"	"
1861	Bernard Wake		William Baker, F.C.S.	"	"
			Henry Clifton Sorby	"	"

Honorary Officers of the Society, 1822-1922—*continued.*

PRESIDENTS.	HON. SECRETARIES.	TREASURERS.	HON. CURATORS.
1862 John Webster	William Baker, F.C.S.	C. H. B. Hamby	Graham Stuart, F.G.S.
1863 Charles Elam, M.D.	" "	John Webster	" "
1864 Dr. James H. Allan	" "	" "	" "
1865 J. H. Aveling, M.D.	" "	" "	" "
1866 David Parkes	" "	" "	" "
1867 William Bragge	" "	" "	" "
1868 Rev. J. Lettis Short	" "	" "	Joseph Kirk
1869 John Hobson	" "	" "	" "
1870 Henry Clifton Sorby, F.R.S. 86	William Baker, F.C.S.	" "	" "
	F. Griffiths, M.D.	" "	" "
1871	" "	" "	T. W. Hime, M.D.
1872	" "	" "	" "
1873 Rev. Samuel Earnshaw, M.A.	" "	John Newbould	" "
1874	" "	" "	" "
1875 Rev. C. G. Coombe, M.A.	" "	John Hobson	" "
1876 William Baker, F.C.S.	F. Griffiths, M.D.	" "	" "
1877	" "	Benjamin Bagshawe, Junr.	(With the transference of the Society's Museum to the Public Museum in Weston Park, in 1875, the appoint- ment of an Honorary Curator ceased.)

Honorary Officers of the Society, 1822-1922—*continued*.

	PRESIDENTS.	HON. SECRETARIES.	TREASURERS.
1878	John Hall	William Baker, F.C.S. F. Griffiths, M.D.	John Hobson
1879	H. Clifton Sorby, LL.D., F.R.S.	Benjamin Bagshawe, Junr. Edward Birks	
1880	T. W. Hime, B.A., M.B.	"	"
1881	A. H. Allen, F.C.S.	"	"
1882	Benjamin Bagshawe	Edward Birks	"
		Prof. J. Viriamu Jones	"
1883	Frederick Brittain	"	"
1884	Rev. Samuel Earnshaw, M.A.	Edward Birks James Wilson	"
1885	J. D. Leader, F.S.A.	"	"
1886	Charles Belk	H. Clifton Sorby, F.R.S. Edward Birks	"
1887	Edward Birks, F.L.S.	H. Clifton Sorby, F.R.S. Simeon Snell, F.R.C.S.E.	"
1888	William Dyson, M.D.	"	"
1889	Arnold T. Watson, F.L.S.	Edward Birks, F.L.S. Simeon Snell, F.R.C.S.E.	"
1890	Prof. W. M. Hicks, D.Sc., F.R.S.	"	Arnold T. Watson, F.L.S.

Honorary Officers of the Society, 1822-1922—*continued.*

PRESIDENTS.	HON. SECRETARIES.	TREASURERS.
1891 Rev. C. Clementson, M.A.	Edward Birks, F.L.S. Simeon Snell, F.R.C.S.E.	Arnold T. Watson, F.L.S.
1892 B. D. Wrangham	" "	" "
1893 Simeon Snell, F.R.C.S.E.	Edward Birks, F.L.S. H. Clifton Sorby, LL.D., F.R.S.	" "
1894 William Smith	Edward Birks, F.L.S. Simeon Snell, F.R.C.S.E.	" "
1895 Prof. W. C. Williams, B.Sc.	" "	" "
1896 Rev. E. Hicks, D.D., D.C.L.	" "	" "
1897 H. Clifton Sorby, LL.D., F.R.S.	" "	" "
1898 "	" "	" "
1899 William Parkin	H. Clifton Sorby, LL.D., F.R.S. Simeon Snell, F.R.C.S.E.	" "
1900 J. Newton Coombe	H. Clifton Sorby, LL.D., F.R.S. Simeon Snell, F.R.C.S.E.	" "
1901 Rev. J. Julian, D.D., LL.D.	" "	" "
1902 George Franklin	" "	" "
1903 Prof. W. M. Hicks, D.Sc., F.R.S.	" "	" "
1904 Duncan Burgess, M.A., M.B.	" "	" "
1905 Thomas Skelton Cole	" "	" "
1906 W. H. Ellis	" "	" "
1907 E. Willoughby Firth	" "	" "

Honorary Officers of the Society, 1822-1922—continued.

PRESIDENTS.	HON. SECRETARIES.	TREASURERS.
1908 T. P. Lockwood	H. Clifton Sorby, LL.D., F.R.S.	Arnold T. Watson, F.L.S.
	Simeon Snell, F.R.C.S.E.	
1909 Prof. A. H. Leahy, M.A.	Thomas Skelton Cole	
	T. P. Lockwood	
1910 Prof. W. M. Hicks, D.Sc., F.R.S.	"	"
1911 W. B. Esam	"	"
1912 Prof. G. C. Moore Smith, Litt.D.	"	"
1913 Arnold T. Watson, F.L.S.	"	"
1914 R. J. Pye-Smith, F.R.C.S.	"	"
1915 Rev. W. J. Morrison, M.A. ⁸⁹	"	"
1916 S. Gardner Harrison	"	"
1917 Rev. V. W. Pearson, B.A.	"	"
1918 H. H. Bedford	"	"
1919 Harold Scurfield, M.D., D.P.H.	"	"
1920 Bernard Hobson, M.Sc., F.G.S.	"	"
1921 Lawrence Brittain	"	"
1922 R. H. Minshall	"	"

In addition to the President, Treasurer, and Secretaries, given in the above table, the Officers of the Society in the present year are:—**Vice-Presidents**: Lawrence Brittain; Bernard Hobson, M.Sc., F.R.G.S.; H. H. Bedford; and Prof. G. C. Moore Smith, Litt.D. **Council**: Prof. A. H. Leahy, M.A.; W. B. Esam; R. Benson, B.A.; Sir W. H. Hadow, M.A., Mus.Doc.; Bernard H. Hoole; Dr. A. E. Naish; David Flather; Dr. W. S. Porter; John Austen; Bernard W. Watson; Rev. Canon Odom; and G. R. Travis. **Librarian**: Mrs. Benton.

Appendix.

(C) A CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE.

1822. Dec. 12 The Society founded at a Public Meeting in the Cutlers' Hall.

1823. Jan. 10 First General Meeting of the Society, election of Officers and Committee.

„ „ 17 First Meeting of the Committee, subsequently called the Council.

„ Feb. 21 Mr. James Montgomery delivers the first Public Lecture in connection with the Society, to an audience of about 400, in the 'great room' at the Tontine Inn. Subject: "Literature from the earliest ages to the close of the 13th Century."

„ Mar. 7 First discussion at a General Meeting. Introduced, by request, by the Rev. H. H. Piper. Subject: "The effects of education and the pursuit of literature in the development of the mind." The first year ended with a balance of £350 2s. 5½d.

1824. July 1 The Society moves into its own rooms in the newly-erected Music Hall in Surrey Street, having previously enjoyed the hospitality of the Cutlers' Company.

1827. Aug. 3 The Council consider estimates for the fitting up of a Laboratory. This was, a few years later, converted into a Council Room and Library.

1828. Mar. 7 A Committee appointed to confer with the Medical Authorities, who were considering a

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project for the establishment of a Medical School, and the architects, relative to the building of a ‘Philosophical Hall.’ The Doctors declined to co-operate, and the scheme fell through, but was revived from time to time subsequently, and plans were prepared but never carried out.

1830. July 2 Design, by Mr. Montgomery, for a seal for the Society approved and ordered to be engraved.

1831. Sept. 27 Representatives of the Society invited to the meeting at York at which the British Association was founded.

1845. A “Soirée” given by the Society.

1847. Aug. The first Excursion of the Society took place, to Roche Abbey. It became an annual event for many years.

1848. Feb. 4 “The Rules of the Society as altered and amended” ordered to be entered on the minutes. This was the first general revision.

1850. The first mention of Insurance of the property of the Society in the minutes. Insured with the “Sheffield Fire Office” for £500.

1860. Jan. 19 The first “Conversazione” held (in the Surrey Street Music Hall). Continued as an annual event until 1903.

1868. The Conversazione held in “the new Cutlers’ Hall” (new Banqueting Hall); where it continued to be held.

Appendix.

1868. Oct. 6 The first general meeting to be held in the Society's new quarters at the School of Art, where they had removed from the Surrey Street Music Hall.

1870. Mar. 1 Portrait of the late Mr. Samuel Bailey presented to the Society by his executors. The portrait and £1,000 had been left to the Society in his will.

1872. Jan. 2 Foundation of a Natural Science Section in connection with the Society. It continued in existence until 1909.

1875. Transference of the Society's Natural History and other Collections to the Public Museum at Weston Park.

1878. Feb. 5 The Council vote £100 to the Reception Fund for the first meeting of the British Association in Sheffield in 1879.

1880. Jan. 6 Arrangement with Firth College for the use of their Lecture Hall for the Public Lectures.

1885. Use of the Surrey Street Music Hall for Musical and other Special Lectures, on account of its superior acoustic properties.

1895. Removal of the Society from the School of Art to rooms in Leopold Street, leased from the Assay Office.

1897. Portrait of Dr. H. C. Sorby, F.R.S., painted for the Society by Mrs. Waller, in commemoration of 50 years valuable work for the Society.

Appendix.

1903. Dec. 1 Annual Conversazione discontinued, but arrangements made with Sir Henry Wood, the conductor of the Sheffield Musical Festivals, to give a Musical Lecture in 1904 in the Albert Hall, with illustrations by the Queen's Hall Wood Wind Quintet. A similar arrangement was made in 1905.

1906. Mar. 15 A Conversazione was again held, in the Cutlers' Hall. No Conversazione since.

1907. Having amalgamated with the old "Subscription Library" (founded in 1771), and acquired its books, the Society found it necessary to remove from Leopold Street to more commodious premises in St. James's Chambers, Church Street.

1908. Mar. 9 Death of Dr. H. C. Sorby, F.R.S., aged 82, whose long and active connection with the Society extended over a period of more than sixty years. He bequeathed £500 to the Society, and such of his books as would complete or continue any series possessed by the Society.

1909. Closing of the Natural Science Section, on the ground that the work of the Section had been to a certain extent superseded by the various Scientific Societies which had come into existence since its foundation in 1872.

1910. The British Association visited Sheffield for the second time, and as on the occasion of its first visit in 1879 Dr. Sorby had been elected President of the Society on account of

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his active connection with the Association, so, for a similar reason, Prof. W. M. Hicks, F.R.S., was invited to occupy the Presidential Chair of the Society in 1910.

1921. In consequence of the overcrowding of the Society's Library at the Monthly Meetings, when papers are read by members and other local gentlemen, arrangements were made to hold these meetings in the large hall of the Central Secondary Girls' School, formerly Firth College.

1922. Dec 12. The Centenary of the Society.

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